JUMP COMICS SQ.
この音とまれ！
2
アミュー

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。デジタル配信用に再編集を行っています。

Hello!!
Hi!
bye!

JUMP COMICS SQ.

この音とまれ！ 2

アミュー

登場人物紹介

久遠愛

箏曲部新入部員。祖父の大事にしていた箏について深く知るために入部する。ケンカっ早く不良と誤解されているが、仲間を大事にする心の持ち主。

倉田武蔵

箏曲部部長。先輩達の一生懸命な演奏に感動し、入部した。先輩達が卒業し、一人きりの部員となってしまっていたが、部を守ろうと奮闘する。

鳳月さとわ

箏曲部新入部員。箏の家元"鳳月会"の生まれで、数々のコンクールで受賞した天才少女。入部の動機は部を全国一位にして、自分のプロデビューに箔を付けるため!?

あらすじ

箏曲部唯一の部員の武蔵は、先輩から受け継いだ部を守ろうと新入部員の勧誘に励んでいた。愛、さとわ達5人の部員を迎えた矢先、一か月後に全校生徒を演奏で納得させられなければ廃部ということになってしまい――――!?

水原光太

箏曲部新入部員。人なつこい性格で、すぐ抱きつくクセがある。愛とは実康や通孝同様、中学の時からの友達。

足立実康

箏曲部新入部員。中学生の時、高校生相手のケンカで愛に助けられる。その恩返しとして入部を決意。

高岡哲生

愛とは子供の頃からのくされ縁。数少ない愛の理解者で、彼が起こす問題をフォローすることも。

仁科静音

部の箏の修理を依頼した楽器店のおばあさん。愛には厳しく当たるが、彼の箏への想いは認めている。

久遠源

愛の祖父で箏職人。愛を引き取り面倒を見ていたが他界する。時瀬高の箏曲部の創立者。

堺通孝

箏曲部新入部員。愛のためと言った実康を茶化していたが、彼も愛の力になりたいと考えていた。

教頭

時瀬高の教頭。愛の悪評を真に受け、彼がいつか問題を起こすのではないかと危険視している。

校長

時瀬高の校長。源とは古くから付き合いがあった。箏曲部の立て直しを温かく見守っている。

No.
Date

この音とまれ！ 2

Contents

#4 新生箏曲部始動　7

#5 出来ないこと　59

#6 初めての響き　105

#7 それぞれの想い　151

KONO OTO TOMARE!

この音とまれ!

Friends who have
fun together,

and everlasting times
after school...

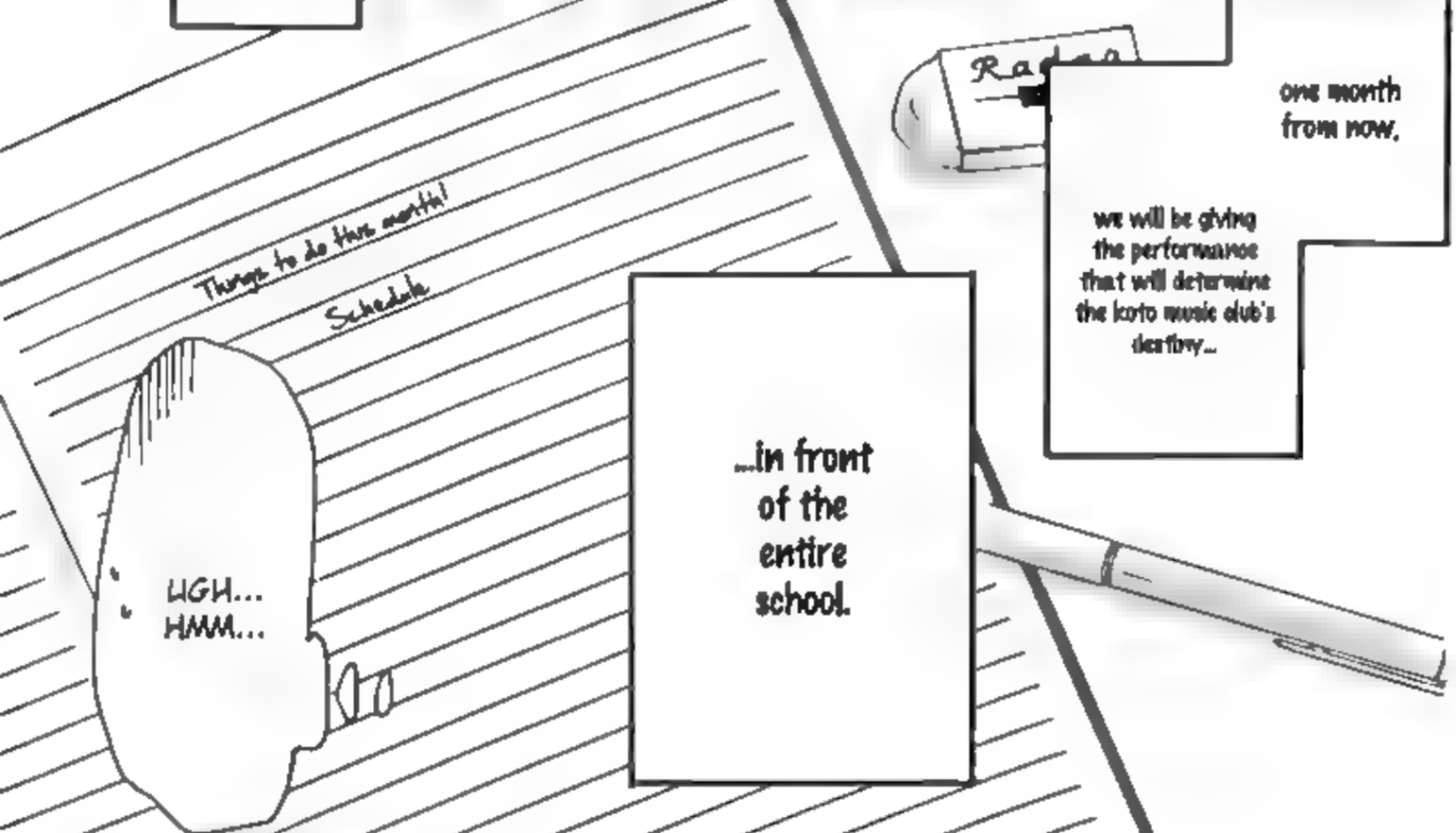
#4 The New Koto Music Club Activates

アミュー

待望のJC1巻は
この表紙が目印➡

この音とまれ！

Training that will determine the destiny of the koto music club - begins!


Radio
one month from now,
we will be giving the performance that will determine the koto music club's destiny...
...in front of the entire school.
Things to do this month!
Schedule
UGH... HMM...

ONE MONTH. WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?
FIRST THEY HAVE TO REMEMBER THE POSITIONS OF THE STRINGS, AND THEN.
Ha
Then... we have to report to the teacher...
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM IS STILL...
Hey?! What's next? Hey!
Do you have any opinions?
Wakahaha
WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE PEOPLE

〈BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE〉

WHEN YOU PLUCK THE STRING,
IT WILL LIFT THE BRIDGE BELOW
WEAR THE PLECTRUMS ON THESE THREE FINGERS OF YOUR RIGHT HAND
AFTER TUNING, THE KOTO IS READY TO BE PLAYED.
IN TOTAL, THE KOTO HAS.
THIRTEEN BASIC STRINGS.
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
to
i
ki
THE NAMES OF THE STRINGS ARE LIKE SO,
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.
THE MUSIC SCORES USED.
ARE THESE TABLATURE SCORES ESPECIALLY FOR KOTO.
THERE'S ALSO
A KIND OF SCORE SIMILAR TO THAT USED FOR THE PIANO
THAT'S ALL!
ALL RIGHT, HURRY UP
HERE, PLAY IT NOW
THIS PIECE, "SAKURA SAKURA", IS EASY TO LEARN.
EH? EH? EH? EH? EH? EH?
SO FAST...
Um, Hontsuki san..
We're only beginners in Koto.
YOU BASTARD DON'T JUST BRUSH US OFF LIKE THAT
BRUSH YOU OFF?

RAGE
OR ARE YOU NOT CONFIDENT?
EVEN THOUGH YOU ACTUALLY SAID, "I CAN PLAY KOTO," BEFORE
Hmph
WHAT I MEAN IS,
COMPARED TO USING WORDS TO EXPLAIN, IT'S EASIER TO LEARN WHEN YOU ACTUALLY PLAY IT
DON'T INTERRUPT, OKAY?
SUPER NOOB.
This is way too easy...
Of course I know a song as simple as Sakura.
Dammit. I'll show that woman.
grab
AHH, JUST QUICKLY
IT'S SO EASY I DON'T EVEN NEED TO USE MY BRAIN!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED!
Eh? An incantation?
sakura sakura
FLIP

grin
"PLEASE TEACH ME?"
FOUR-EYES.
This is.
What's this?
This is actually the first time I've seen a score.
...I have no idea!!!
DAMMIT.
I REMEMBER IT'S.
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN..
THEN WHAT?
This is the time to show what I've learned.
OH,
SOUNDS LIKE IT!
AND "SEVEN" AGAIN,
THEN "EIGHT"..!
peng
peng
WAHAHA. LOOK OVER HERE, BASTARD!
I'M PLAYING IT!
THEN IT'S.
Sakura Sakura
"Seven"
Is it this one?!
peng

...Eyeball...?
whoosh
...Ah...
It seems...
20 MINUTES LATER
They really can't do it...
whoosh
ROll ROll
Ahhh...
My knees~
My feet~
I totally don't get koto!
Enough already! Go wait, you sakura...!
bam bam
SENPAI

Even Houtsuki-san...!
I DIDN'T THINK THESE GUYS WOULD BE SO USELESS.
SHUT UP, BASTARD!
THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB...
...MIGHT BE DISBANDED IN A MONTH'S TIME.
Dis-
Disband...
HEY!
waver...
KUDOU-KUN...
YOU'RE STILL SO STUBBORN, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NEARLY FALLING APART.
SHUT UP!
Nag. nag. So noisy!
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO GIVE UP!
I STILL HAVEN'T PUT IN ALL MY EFFORT!
OF COURSE WE'RE A BIT CLUMSY RIGHT NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP REPEATING IT!

PRESIDENT FOUR-EYES
EVERYONE, JUST TRY YOUR BEST TO DO...
...WHATEVER YOU CAN RIGHT NOW!
Gryaa
Gryaa!
!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!!!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO REST!
THEN I'LL TRY MY BEST TO TREAT MY NUMB LEGS.
shiro
chino
FORGET ABOUT ALL THE BASICS.
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL JUST FOCUS ON PRACTICING THE PIECE WE'LL BE PERFORMING IN A MONTH'S TIME.
!
WHAT IS IT?!
MAYBE...
THERE IS A WAY THAT MIGHT WORK.

I HAVE A PIECE IN MIND.
BUT WE HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT TO PLAY YET.
EH? WHAT?!
NORMALLY, YOU CLIMB THE STAIRS LIKE THIS.
THAT MEANS ...
NOW, IT'LL BE LIKE THIS.
OTHERWISE, WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME
NO MATTER WHETHER IT'S COMPLICATED OR WHAT,
I CAN DEFINITELY PLAY IT!
THESE PEOPLE PROBABLY CAN'T PLAY IT.
WE CAN PLAY IT!
flip
search
Japanese Traditional Music Festival
Enter the world of traditional music.
SO SOFT!
RIGHT?!
...YEAH.

!
noisy
noisy
THEN...
THAT PIECE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMED THERE.
THERE'S A JAPANESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL IN TWO DAYS.
DO YOU WANT TO GO?
春の邦楽祭
Fried Squid Sauce
THE Golden Age
GOOD MORNING.
EH?!
HOUTSUKI-SAN?!
11:5
TEN MORE MINUTES UNTIL THE MEET-UP TIME...
SENPAI
WILL THEY ALL COME ?
WORRY

AHH, WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THE OTHER FOUR STILL HAVEN'T
Too... Too self-conscious ...
DON'T THINK TOO MUCH. !
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT FIRST
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT
AH, THAT'S BECAUSE I'M QUITE WELL-KNOWN IN THE JAPANESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC FIELD.
EHH...
That's the reason?
!!?
DON'T MAKE THINGS UP, YOU BASTARDS!
A FIGHT?
!!!!
YOU WERE THE ONES BLOCKING THE PATH!
WHAT?! WE'RE FROM IWA HIGH.
LET ME SHOW YOU GUYS OUR STRENGTH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, BITCH?!
Ah...!
You spoke too much.
Oh.
PRESIDENT FOUR-EYES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING FIGHTING WITH IDIOTS?
THEY WERE THE ONES WHO STARTED IT!
SHOCK
THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WERE PLANNING.
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU THREE DOING?!

SFX "RAISE"
YOU WOMAN ...!
HOUTSUKI-SA...
HEY ..OOKING MORE CLOSELY, YOU'RE ACTUALLY QUITE CUTE
I'LL FORGIVE THOSE GUYS IF YOU COME HANG OUT WITH US. HOW'S THAT?
Don't joke with such a comical face.
PULL

Goo
THE REASON WHY YOU WANT TO HIT THIS WOMAN. .
I UNDER-STAND.
KUDOU CHIKA ...?!
KUDOU ?!
KUDOU-KUN!

An..
Gyaa, it hurts!
Is that so? If you understand...
squeeze
I UNDER-STAND VEEERY WELL.

WHAT WERE YOU GUYS DOING?
THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CAUSING TROUBLE LATELY YOUR FAME STILL LINGERS'
OH. THAT WAS GREAT!
So...
So scary
They just met, and the air is already filled with danger and violence...
ESCAPE
DAMMIT
11:58
Why is Kudou here?

eh...
why?
And you're not allowed to fight from now on!
Hey, calm down!
By the way this
TO-
TOTALLY NOT CUTE.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO HIT ME THE MOST, RIGHT? HOW ABOUT YOU TRY IT?
SO NOISY
WHAT?! DIDN'T I JUST HELP YOU OUT)\ FLAWLESSLY?
AND YOU, TOO DON'T START PROVOKING THEM.
YOU SHOULD JUST PLAY THE LADY AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
FLAW-LESSLY?
THAT PERSON'S SHOULDER IS PROBABLY DISLOCATED
Asking me why...
IF THE SCHOOL FOUND OUT ABOUT THE FIGHT,
YOU WOULDN'T BE THE ONLY ONES PUNISHED. THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WOULD ALSO GET IN TROUBLE
I SEE SORRY..
Houtsuki-san saying it this way!
It's over...!
It'll be fine if it's just in self-defense!
It's their fault if they're the ones provoking us!
It won't be exposed, even if we fight!
Leave it to us!
Let's go then!
I'm worried about the future...

THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE HELD HERE?!
THIS...
EH...?
noise
IT'S SO NOISY HERE. WILL PEOPLE BE ABLE TO HEAR IT?
noise
I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT WAS IN A QUIET HALL
THOUGH.
EH
AH, BY THE WAY,
THE PIECE YOU MENTIONED IS...?
THE NAME'S "RYUUSEIGUN".
THE MAIN IDEA OF THIS FESTIVAL...
IS TO ALLOW PEOPLE WHO DON'T USUALLY RELATE TO JAPANESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC TO ENJOY T
BESIDES KOTO, THERE ARE ALSO SHAKUHACHI, SHAMISEN AND WADAIKO PERFORMANCES*

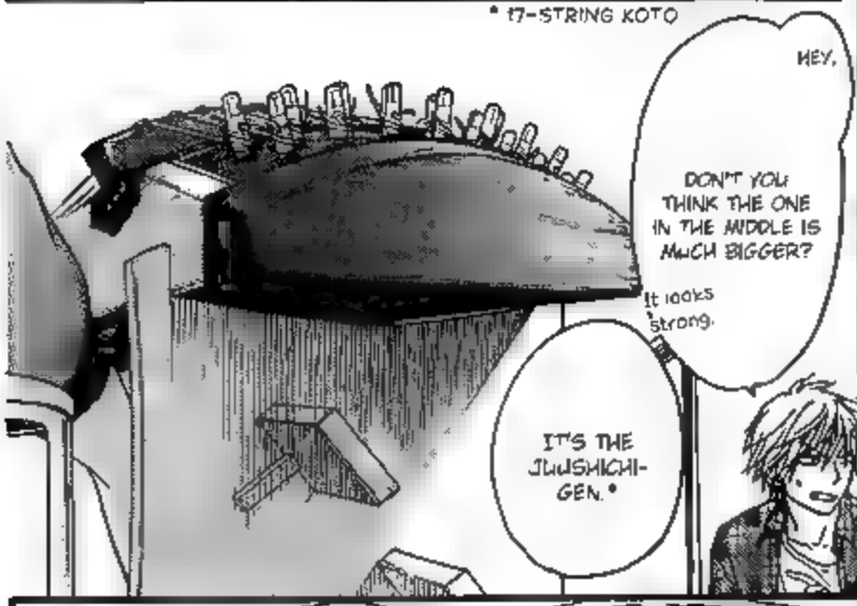
*T/N: SHAKUHACHI IS A FLUTE, SHAMISEN IS A PLUCKED STRING

Welcome to the spring Japanese Traditional Music Fest!
Today, we'll be giving you fascinating trad t onal music performances Please enjoy!
What kind of song is it...?
excited
I HAVEN'T HEARD IT BEFORE
"RYUU-SEIGUN" ?
IT'S A NEW SONG,
BUT I THINK IT SUITS US.
HOU-
HOUTSUKI GROUP
. THAT'S RIGHT.
...ARE THE ELITES FROM THE HOUTSUKI GROUP.
TODAY, PERFORMING FOR US
...is a koto performance brought to you by the Houtsuki group!
F rst on the stage
The song is "Ryuuseigun", written by Ayase Taki!
!

AREN'T THEY LITTLE BRATS?!
THE MEMBERS RESEMBLE LITTLE KIDS?!
...
LITTLE
...
SO?
No... But...
DO WE HAVE TO PLAY...
...A SONG PLAYED BY LITTLE KIDS?
It feels depressing.
This is such a weird feeling of failure..

* 17-STRING KOTO

Ah
Clatter-
BUT THE HOUTSUKI GROUP'S LITTLE KIDS.
SHOULD ALL BE REALLY GOOD
GOOD OR NOT WE PROBABLY CAN'T TELL ..
..WHAT'S GOOD AND WHAT'S BAD.



stroke...
IF IT'S A SONG A LITTLE KID CAN PLAY,
IN ONE MONTH, EVEN WE CAN...
SFX: JYAN
ZAAAAAAA
!!?
stroke...
ZA

SFX "DARARAN"
Is
Is
THIS FOR REAL?
It feels really heavy
Are they really kids?
Aren't they being impersonated by old men?
By the way—
The koto has songs as intense as this?!

STA...RE...
iiiin...!
dan...
pikikikin...
IS THIS HOW IT SOUNDS...?
It suddenly changed from the intense melody to a solo by the Juushichi-gen...!
pikikikin...
stroke...
snan...
DOKUN...
ping
shde...

da
da
da
da
da
Waaah...

YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO PLAY THAT SONG IN A MONTH.
JUST LIKE THAT.
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
Hou... Houtsuki-san, let's just find another song.
IT SHOULD BE FINE IF WE PRACTICE A LOT
THE SONG ISN'T REALLY THAT HARD, APART FROM THE JUUSHICHI-GEN PART
I'll play the juushichi-gen
DIDN'T YOU HEAR OUR SAKURA YESTERDAY?!
PUTTING ME ASIDE, HOW COULD THESE THREE PLAY IT?
Chika, you're being over-confident!
You can't play either!
THE SONG IS MADE UP OF THREE PARTS.
IF WE ONLY PLAY ONE PART, IT'LL ONLY TAKE SIX MINUTES, WHICH IS JUST RIGHT.
AND THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE DIFFERENT SINCE YOU'RE ALL GUYS.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FULLY EXPRESS THE POWER WITHIN.

Golden Age
IF THINGS ARE SUCCESSFUL AFTER A MONTH,
THE VICE PRINCIPAL AND THE ENTIRE SCHOOL...
...WILL BE AS SHOCKED...
..AS YOU GUYS ARE RIGHT NOW.
PROBABLY.
SWEAT
But Houtsuki-san
Ah...
That's true.
The performance just then was really amazing, but...
It's totally different...
...compared to her performance that time...
Probably
Dammit
WHAT'S THAT FACE FOR?
She definitely pisses me off...
STARE
BY THE WAY,
IF YOU CAN'T PLAY THAT SONG NO MATTER WHAT, WE CAN CHOOSE ANOTHER ONE
HMPH
BUT
DOESN'T THAT MEAN ?
LITTLE KIDS
BELOW

BUT... WE DON'T HAVE A JUUSHI-CHI-GEN AT OUR CLUB.
That's enough...
I'LL JUST BRING IT FROM HOME.
EH?!
No problem!
WE WON'T LOSE TO LITTLE KIDS!
OF COURSE! THAT LEVEL IS JUST TOO EASY!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, YOU THREE?!
WHO SAYS WE CAN'T PLAY?
SO NICE TO BE SIMPLE-MINDED
Ahhh.
THAT... ISN'T IT REALLY HEAVY?
HOW ABOUT I COME AND GET IT?
IT-
IT'S FINE!!!
EH? BUT IT'S MUCH BIGGER THAN THE NORMAL KOTOS.
I'LL CARRY IT BY MYSELF!
Geh
JUST LET HER!
ISN'T SHE THE OJOU-SAMA? SHE CAN JUST GET THE DRIVER TO BRING IT OVER IN A LUXURIOUS CAR.
SHUT UP.

Not bad
Ah, the kids just then...
well done
WAR...H
WAR...H
HM?
Hey calm down
SFX CRACKLE
IS THE PERSON WEARING THE KIMONO THE TEACHER ?
Then that's Soutsuki-san's mother...?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY IT?

THERE'S NO NEED.
Gold
IT SEEMS MORE INTERESTING THAN I IMAGINED.
I WANT TO PLAY ON-STAGE.
THERE'S KETCHUP ON YOUR SLEEVE.
AH, I JUST HAD A HOTDOG
I'LL PASS. I'M GOING AHEAD
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
EH?
OKAY ...
AH, LET'S GO TO A FAMILY RESTAU-RANT.
CAN THIS GUY STILL EAT?
He already ate a lot
AH GOOD IDEA.
SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE, WHY NOT GO AND HAVE DINNER?
WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
GYAA GYAA
And you have older and younger sisters too
YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT GIRLS TOO MUCH, SANE
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF HOUTSUKI -SAN'S PERSONA-LITY IS LIKE HOW IT WAS WHEN WE FIRST MET HER
AH
YOU'RE ALL BEING TRICKED.
I'M WILLING TO FALL FOR THE TRICK.
Wahaha

Yawn...
Pant..
Pant
THAT ..
WHAT IS THAT ...?
HM?
AHH, I'M SO SLEEPY ...
GRAB
!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S YOU!
SO THIS IS THE JUUSHICHI-GEN.
NO WONDER IT'S THE JUUSHICHI-GEN. CARRY-ING IT FOR SUCH A LONG DISTANCE REALLY IS TIRING...

PULL
DON'T JOKE AROUND!
WHAT IF YOU DAMAGE IT?
SMIRK
YOU LOOK REALLY TIRED.
WANT ME TO HELP YOU?
MAD
!
I SEE
WOW.
THE SCORE FOR "RYUUSEIGUN" HAS ARRIVED?!

THAT'S GREAT! WE CAN START PRACTICING TODAY, THEN!
"RYUUSEI-GUN" IS SEPARATED INTO...
...THE JUUSHI-CHI-GEN PART, AND FIVE KOTO PARTS,
WHICH MEANS ONE PART FOR EACH OF US.
ONE PART EACH?
THEN THAT MEANS...

SFX. THUNDER

SFX. BULLSEYE

I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE,

FOR SURE.

SINCE IT'S ONE PART EACH,

THERE IS A LOT OF RESPON-SIBILITY.

SFX GASP

KUDOU-KUN...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

So scary! so scary!

SO SCARY ..

A SCARY WOMAN..

I don't think I can play this at all...!!!

SFX DOOM

STARE
It's a billion times more confusing than Sakura!!!
Besides the eyeball from before, what's this worm-like thing?
And what are these others?! What are they all about...?!
YOUR VOICE IS SHAKING, CHIKA.
Stop pretending.
LET'S START PRACTICING!
TOO... TOO EASY.

STROKE A SINGLE STRING RAPIDLY.
LIKE THIS.
shaaa
USING THE RIGHT CORNER OF THE INDEX FINGER'S PLECTRUM,
ONE OF KOTO'S TECHNIQUES.
A TREMBLE?
...WILL BEGIN WITH A "TREMBLE"
EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR ME ...

The tremble on the score
?!!!!
Wahaha
shaaa
shaaa
SO THIS IS THE WORM'S TRUE IDEN-TITY !
Ama-zing!
STOP PLAYING AROUND !!!
WOW, SO HAPPY!
LIKE THIS? LIKE THIS?
shaaa
shaaa
FEELS LIKE KOTO!
shaaa
UWAAH ... AMAZ-ING!
Wow!
HOUTSUKI-SAN'S TREMBLE IS REALLY NICE
Of course!
!
JERK
NO!
THAT'S THE SIXTH STRING, NOT THE FIFTH!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!

UWAH... BUT THEY'RE ALL JUST WHITE LINES.
IT'S HARD TO TELL THEM APART WITH ONLY A GLANCE!
THEN JUST FAMILIARIZE YOUR BODY WITH IT,
AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WITH JUST YOUR SENSE OF THEM!
WITH MY SENSE OF THEM...
Make the strings more colorful, like a rainbow or something
UM... CAN WE STOP HERE FOR TODAY...?
Speaking of sensing things, I can't feel anything in my legs anymore
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S NOT GOOD TO OVEREXERT YOURSELF IN THE BEGINNING
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THIS MUCH ISN'T EVEN CLOSE TO BEING CALLED PRACTICING.
WE'LL BE STARTING MORNING PRACTICES TOMORROW, SO PREPARE YOURSELVES.
HUH?! MORNING PRACTICES?!
EH?
float
HEY, DON'T JUST DECIDE THAT ON YOUR OWN!
THESE GUYS ALREADY DID THEIR BEST TO REACH THIS LEVEL.
MORNING PRACTICES OR WHATEVER... THEY WON'T SURVIVE THREE DAYS.
nod
nod
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO BUTT IN...
...WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL?

SFX: MAD—
I AGREE I'M NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH KOTO,
BUT I'M ALSO PRACTICING REALLY HARD!
HARD? ONLY THIS MUCH?
YOU'RE TREATING YOURSELF REALLY WELL.
HUH?!
HEY, YOU TWO...!
WITH US PROGRESSING LIKE THIS,
THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WILL DEFINITELY BE DISBANDED.
ONLY PLAYING THROUGH THE SCORE...
THAT ISN'T EVEN A SONG. IT'S NOTHING.
GETTING TO KNOW THE IDEA BEHIND THE SONG,
AND INCORPORATING IT INTO THE PERFORMANCE TO MAKE IT YOURS...
THAT'S WHAT CREATES A SONG THAT'S ABLE TO REACH PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

BUT IT WAS YOU WHO TOLD US TO...
IF WE'RE TRACING BACK TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE?!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN QUALIFIED AS AMATEURS.
WE HAVE TO COMPLETE IT WITHIN A MONTH,
AND YOU GUYS STILL CAN'T TELL THE STRINGS APART!
UGH...
SHOCK
Everyone else's are too
IT... IT'S ALREADY LATE, SO LET'S FINISH FOR TODAY!
RIGHT!
THE ATMOSPHERE'S REALLY HEAVY
MY EGGS CAN'T STAND ARE NUMB

"Then just familiarize your body with it!"
TCH...
"With us progressing like this,
"the koto music club will definitely be disbanded"
Fried Squid Scene
!
AND THAT WOMAN IS LIKE SPARTA.
HOU-TSUKI-SAN?
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S THE MOST INCOM-PREHENSIBLE THING I'VE ENCOUNTERED SO FAR
RATHER THAN HARD
IS KOTO THAT HARD?
SHUT UP.
WHY DID YOU BECOME LIKE THIS?
AND IT'S A KOTO FAMILY, RIGHT?
...YOU TEACH PEOPLE THE SAME WAY YOU WERE TAUGHT, RIGHT?
YOU SEE, IN GENERAL ...
HUH?
THAT HOUTSUKI-SAN MOST LIKELY GREW UP IN A SPARTAN ENVIRON-MENT.
HMM ...

With your bag
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
stands
!!
"This much isn't even close to being called practicing."
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT? I HEAR IT ISN'T EASY.
TRAINING IS REALLY HARSH, TOO.
!!
"Don't just decide that on your own!"
Flip
I'LL JUST EAT A LITTLE
HOW 'BOUT LUNCH?
SOMETHING MINOR
NOTHING
"Forget it. Just let her play by herself."
"Satowa's too serious. She's scary."
"And we actually wanted to play happily."
"We're not performing this song in the competition. Just relax."
"Why is Satowa practicing so hard by herself?"
...On my own...

〈BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE〉

SI-LEN(E
IT'LL BE MY FAULT IF THEY QUIT THE CLUB.
I WILL THINK OF SOMETHING WHEN THAT TIME COMES.
EH? WAIT!
THEY WON'T GIVE UP SO QUICKLY!
...THOUGH . I'M NOT TOO SURE OF THOSE THREE MYSELF...

BUT KUDOU-KUN ..
...DEFINITELY WON'T GIVE UP, NO MATTER WHAT.
...WHY DO YOU TRUST HIM SO MUCH?
BE-CAUSE ...
BE-SIDES, IF IT'S LIKE THAT,
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, THEY'LL WANT TO GIVE UP, RIGHT?

Kya
Kya
Kya
STOP JOKING AROUND!
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!!
YOU'RE NOT A TEENAGE GIRL
I'LL HIT YOU.
DID YOU HAVE TO CALL US OUT TO GIVE SOMETHING TO US. ?
JEEZ, ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK THE THREE OF US UP, CHIKA-KUN?
IS THIS CHIKA'S CONFESSION?
I only had half of my lunch
CALLING US OUT HERE
WHAT'S UP, CHIKA?
I MADE THESE MYSELF HERE. USE THEM.
EH?
WHAT...
shock
SFX GYAA! HAHAHAHA!

SFX HIC HIC
HOW COULD ...
YOU MADE THESE YOURSELF? YOU?
CHIKA ...
TCH ...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
Ahaha —
Ahaha
WH-WHAT..
!
It's them...!
AH?!
IT'S TO MAKE THAT WOMAN SHUT UP, OF COURSE!
STOP LAUGHING.
IT'S AN ILLUSION~ AN ILLUSION~
EVEN DURING LESSONS.
WE'LL USE THEM WHOLEHEARTEDLY.
nod
NO, CHIKA-KUN, WE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS.
What...?
Are they planning to take revenge on me?
.....
IT'S THEM!
WE'LL MAKE HOUTSUKI-SAN BE QUIET WITH THESE!
...ME.. ?
YOU'RE REALLY ASKING FOR IT.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU, RIGHT?
SO YOU MADE SOME FOR US, AS WELL?

That's why delin-quents...
DAMMIT
Those brats
SIT
Since that guy's "trying hard" is only...

HIDE
A hand made cardboard kote...?
"Chika... You made this yourself? You?"
"You guys still can't tell the strings apart."
"It's to make that woman shut up, of course!"

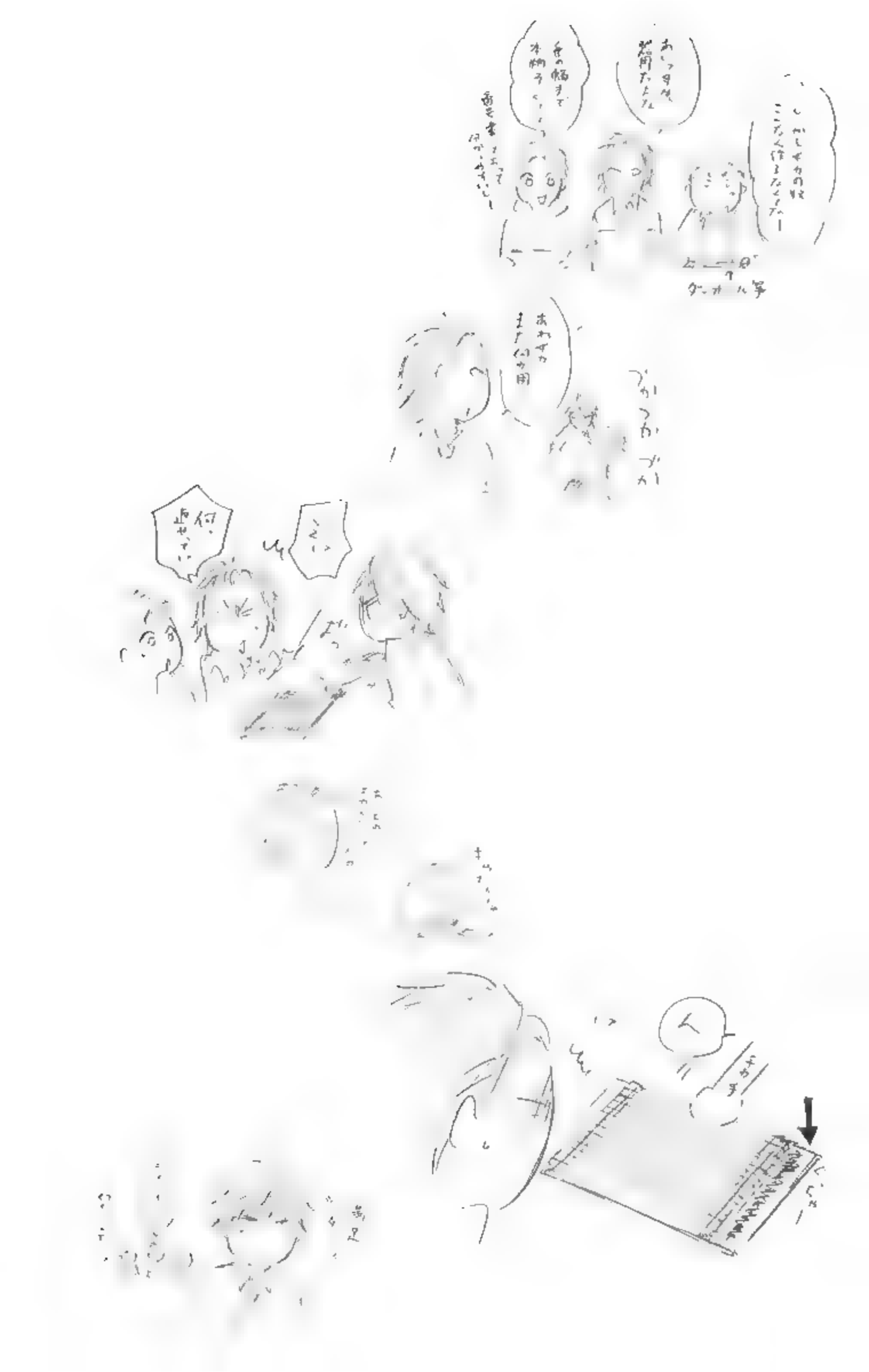
"Kudou-kun definitely won't give up, no matter what."

HEY.
IT'S BETTER NOT TO USE THE NOTES NEXT TO THE STRINGS.
HMM ..
THEN IT'S FIVE... FIVE...
YOU'LL RELY ON THEM WHEN YOU PLAY.
BECAUSE IF YOU WRITE THE NUMBERS ON THE SIDE,
YOU ...
SHOCK
OTHERWISE, IT'S BETTER NOT TO USE IT.
OR JUST FOR FUN.
IT'S FINE IF YOU'RE PLAYING KOTO OUT OF INTEREST,

Dammit. She really pisses me off.
...BUT ...
BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY AT THIS LEVEL.
YOU SAY YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY KOTO,
HUH?!
. IT WILL PROBABLY ALREADY BE A MONTH BY THE TIME YOU FINALLY REMEMBER THE POSI-TIONS
BUT WITH AN IQ LIKE YOURS, IF YOU DO THAT
TO BE HONEST,
WHEN YOU PLAY KOTO,
YOUR HANDS ARE ACTUALLY QUITE BEAUTIFUL.

THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT YOU MUST BE REALLY GREAT.

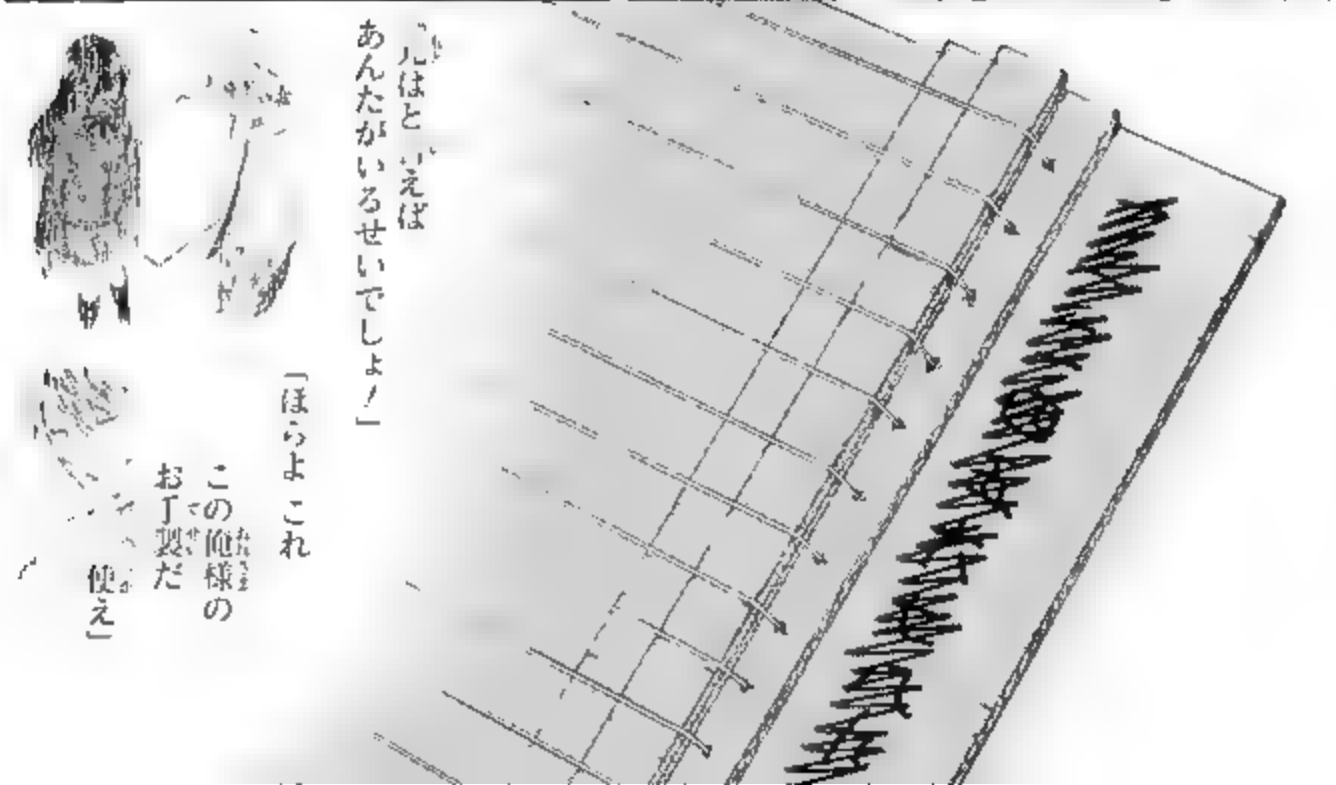
(BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE) **TO BE CONTINUED**



#5 出来ないこと

チュンチュン
バタバタバタ
わっやべ 遅刻だ！
何実康 あんたもう学校行くの？
おー 今日から 部活の朝練 始まっから
は!? 部活!? あんたが!? 何部!!
いーだろ別に なんでも

別にいーけど どーせすぐ やめちゃうんじゃ ないのぉ？
うっせ


ほらよ これ この俺様の お手製だ 使え」
「ほらよ これ この俺様の お手製だ 使え」
「ルはと えば あんたがいるせいでしょ！」

HUH...?
CLOSE

...IF THAT GUY IS STILL SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
IN OTHER WORDS, I WON'T GIVE UP...
OPEN

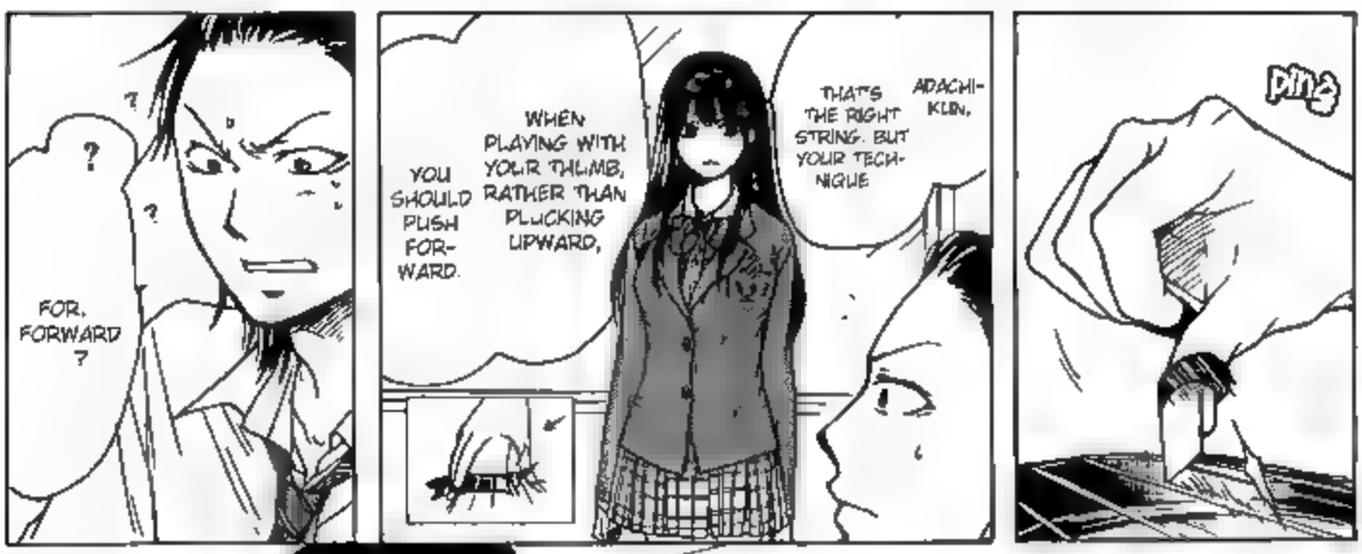
HEY, IT'S DANGEROUS IF YOU DON'T WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING

SEVEN.
THREE!
...NINE!
POINT
POINT

HM. After all I was even memorizing them during class.
HAVE YOU MEMORIZED THE STRINGS?
Haha ha.
THEY LOOK LIKE ICE CREAM SCOOPS!
FSHHHH
I'VE RUN INTO A POLE THREE TIMES ALREADY
JUST LOOK AT ME.
THREE?!

Arrogant eyes,
because I'm
strong...!
#5 AN
UNACHIEVABLE
THING

The club activity yesterday...
pinp
pinp
MORNING PRACTICE HUH...?


?
?
?
FOR, FORWARD ?
YOU SHOULD PUSH FOR-WARD.
WHEN PLAYING WITH YOUR THUMB, RATHER THAN PLUCKING UPWARD,
THAT'S THE RIGHT STRING. BUT YOUR TECH-NIQUE
ADACHI-KUN,
Pin♪

...
...my hand posture is perfect.
Wahaha
Because I was told that when I play...
SANE,
JUST WATCH HOW I DO IT.

ADACHI-KUN,
IT SEEMS YOU PLAY THE GUITAR?
EH?
AH, YEAH, GUITAR ♪
THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU PLAY
THERE'S ALWAYS THIS FEELING OF USING A PICK
, BUT BECAUSE YOUR MUSICAL SENSE ISN'T BAD,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PICK IT UP SOON.
I'M SO SORRY, CHIKA.
shine
YOU CAN'T COPY MUSICAL SENSE.
SFX: "WHAM"
GEH.
HOUTSUKI-SAN'S PRAISING SOMEONE ?!
It's my first time hearing that
It hurts! What were you doing, you idiot?
BY THE WAY,
WHAT TIME ARE WE STARTING TOMORROW MORNING?
EH?
MORNING PRACTICE.
DIDN'T WE DECIDE ON THAT?

!
EH?
EVERYONE AGREES. ?
GRIN
ABOUT WAKING UP EARLY I'LL KEEP T IN MIND FOR NOW
YOU WON'T GET MAD IF I DON'T COME, RIGHT?
HM.
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN WAKE UP SO EARLY, THOUGH, SO DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH HOPE.
It seems...
Kudou-kun and Houtsuki-san got along pretty well yesterday.
The atmosphere wasn't that bad, either.
Things seem to be getting better...!
WOW, SOMEONE'S ALREADY HERE!
It seems energetic.

GOOD MORN-
WHY DO YOU KEEP TALKING THAT WAY?!
YOU'RE ANNOY-ING!
THAT'S A FACT— I CAN'T HELP IT!
AH?!
YOUR ABILITY TO COMPREHEND ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH!
...Why...?
HEY, HEY, YOU TWO. WHAT'S THE FIGHT ABOUT THIS TIME?
OH, FOUR-EYES.
NOTHING REALLY
MY PART CAN ONLY BE PLAYED WITH BARE FINGERS, RATHER THAN WITH PLECTRUMS, RIGHT?
YEAH.
IT'S PLUCKED?
WELL, ABOUT THAT.
NO MATTER HOW I PLAYED, I COULD ONLY PRODUCE THESE INDISTINCT NOISES, SO..
noise
noise
.....

(BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE)

THOSE KIDS FROM BEFORE..

WEREN'T THEY ABLE TO PLAY NICELY USING THEIR FINGERS?

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS...?

IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T PRACTICED ENOUGH.

...

...HEY.

HOW CAN I MAKE CLEAR SOUNDS WHEN I PLAY WITH MY FINGERS?

HUH?

noise

noise

THEN ...

...THE CURRENT SITUATION IS...

YOU STILL NEED TO TRY HARDER!

LIKE I SAID, YOU JUST NEED TO PRACTICE MORE!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

TCH!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS ?!

Ah ! That's enough already !

SFX: SWING

MAYBE THE REASON WHY YOU CAN ONLY MAKE INDISTINCT SOUNDS IS BECAUSE...

SFX HMPH

YOU'RE TOO NAIVE, THINKING YOU CAN PLAY WELL WITHOUT GOING THROUGH ANY HARDSHIP

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME AS IT IS, AND THIS STINGY WOMAN WON'T GIVE ME ANY TIPS.

Tch

YOUR FINGERS ARE STILL SOFT.
SOFT?
THAT'S RIGHT
IF YOU PRACTICE REPEATEDLY,
BLISTERS WILL FORM ON YOUR FINGERS.
WHEN THOSE BLISTERS BREAK OR HEAL, YOUR FINGERS WILL BECOME HARDER THAN BEFORE...
BIT BY BIT, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO "PLUCK",
AND THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO PLAY CRISP, SOOTHING NOTES.
Mm
...I'D BEEN WONDERING IF IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THAT WHEN I WASN'T AROUND...
YOU OMITTED TOO MUCH!
Who would understand?!
Hmph
I THINK HOUTSUKI-SAN ALSO THINKS THAT WAY

Houtsuki-san isn't really suited to teaching...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S TALENTED
SO SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOME PEOPLE CAN'T DO IT.
IN ORDER TO AVOID PLACING ALL THE LOAD ON HOUTSUKI-SAN. I MUST WORK HARD AS WELL!
SO FAST...
FOUR-EYES!
Fingers...
.....
GRAB
... WH...
WHAT'S WRONG??

My fingers are softer than his...!!!
COMPARED TO THAT WOMAN AND FOUR-EYES..!
DOOM
SFX *CRACKLE*
SORRY FOR BEING LATE!
...AND THEN?
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THE STRINGS ON YOUR HAND-MADE KOTO STIFFER?
HMM.
IF IT'S NOT SIMILAR TO THE REAL KOTO,
I CAN'T TRAIN MY FINGERS.
And I can't practice at home!
WHAT I'M ASKING IS.
CAN'T YOU BRING A KOTO HOME?
THE SCHOOL RULES SAY I CAN'T,
AND I CAN'T AFFORD A REAL ONE.
THEN CAN YOU BORROW ONE FROM SOMEONE?
FROM WHO?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
SOMEONE WHO OWNS A KOTO,
AND HAS A PLACE THAT CAN BE USED FOR PRACTICING AFTER CLUB. SOMEWHERE...
AH.

SINCE YOU HAVE SO MANY INSTRU-MENTS!
...SO PLEASE LET THE FOUR OF US PRACTICE HERE,
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW THICK YOUR SKIN CAN BE!
I'M NOT YOUR GRANNY!
WILL YOU PAY RENTAL FEES?
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
BESIDES, LENDING YOU THE PLACE AND THE INSTRU-MENTS...
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY YET ...
WE
IT'S ALREADY AN EYE-SORE! IT'S AN-NOYING!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU COMING IN AND OUT...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? WE WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE!

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ADULTS!
TH-
THEN ...
Massage Coupon
Just for Granny
Expiry when I'm still alive
Can be used around 10 times.
ONE MONTH FROM NOW,
WE'LL GIVE YOU A PERFORMANCE THAT WILL AMAZE YOU.

"So you're Minamoto's grandson..."
JEEZ ...
OUCH-
Why us as well?
THINK OF IT AS A PRESENT BEFORE YOU DIE.
"Minamoto, are you living with your grandson right now?"
"I hear he's a delinquent."
SO IT WAS YOU...
WELL, OF COURSE THIS CIRCLE IS QUITE SMALL.
YOU KNOW MY GRANDPA.?
"I'm so happy to be living with my grandson!"
"What do you mean?"
Hahaha
"Hmm... Sort of."
"He's always getting into fights, and never comes home on time."
"How's your health?"
"Don't push yourself too much."
"...If you're happy then it's fine..."
"Who's going to look after him if I don't?"
"Besides, the only things that brat lacks right now..."
...are hot meals and a person who can lecture him."

"Shizuka!
"My grandson! It's my
"My grandson played the koto I made!"
"That kid must have talent!"
"A month from now,"
"we'll give you a performance that will amaze you."

I hope you could hear what he just said.
DON'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORDS IF YOU'RE A MAN.
...Minamoto...
Yosh.
Dammit My legs
Surprised
MM...
EVERYONE'S PLAYING QUITE WELL NOW!
IT'S NEARLY EIGHT O'CLOCK, SO IT'S ABOUT TIME TO PACK UP...
AH. MM. GOOD JOB.
GOOD JOB!
!!
?

YOU'VE HIDDEN THAT FROM THE WRONG PERSON.
Play with me Ne san
What's that?
Stupid~
How do I play this?
Ah isn't it like this?
Huh? I don't know It's a different part

HURT
HURT
HURT
BESIDES, THE FINGERS I PLAY WITH HURT MORE THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED..
Dammit
I CAN PLAY MOST OF IT CORRECTLY, BUT...
THE SOUNDS ARE STILL INDISTINCT.
ping
ping
BLISTERS
"Bit by bit, you'll be able to 'pluck.'"
"If you practice repeatedly, blisters will form on your fingers."
WOW NO WONDER YOU'RE THE BIG BROTHER OF FOUR KIDS
WAIT THERE I HAVE A BAND-AID
LEAVE IT TO ME
UWAH! CHIKA, YOUR HAND!
IT HURTS!
Just by looking at it!

How much did they have to practice...
...for their fingertips to become that hard?
SEE YOU TOMORROW, GRANNY!
THANKS! GOOD-NIGHT!
OKAY OKAY
It's Panna just watching you!
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH, CHIBA!
DON'T USE YOUR FINGERS UNTIL THEY HEAL!
ping ping

TO THINK I CAN ACTUALLY PLAY THIS WELL SO SOON...
YUP
RIGHT?
BUT . WE CAN PLAY IT NOW.
AH, I'M SO TIRED.

CHIKA ?
SNORE

LET'S SEE WHERE HE'S WALKING TO! WE HAVE TO MARK IT DOWN!
HOW PROFES-SIONAL
Hahahaha
AH, CHIKA'S SLEEP-WALKING!

RIGHT CHIKA?
AND WE THOUGHT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PLAY KOTO IN THE BEGIN-NING.
ME TOO.
WE'VE NEVER HAD SUCH AN EXPERIENCE BEFORE
SPECIAL TRAINING!
I'M QUITE HAPPY WITH THIS METHOD!
AND I THINK...

That means we can all finish our parts!
Jyan...
Yay!
Kouta's performance was perfect!
SO...

So impressive, everyone! Without us knowing ...!
You can all play your parts successfully!
RIGHT, HOUTSUKI-SAN?!
MM... THEY'RE ABLE TO PLAY,
BUT THE RHYTHM IS STILL A BIT WEIRD
Wahaha
YOU SEE? WE DID IT!
ACTUALLY, FOR MY PART, MOST OF THE TIME IT'S JUST A CHANGE OF RHYTHM ON A PARTICULAR STRING!
THERE'S A LOT OF REPETITION IN MY PART TOO!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT MINE TOO!
How's that?
How's that?
How's that?
EVERYONE
They're all trying their best...!
HOUTSUKI-SAN,
CAN WE TRY COMBINING ALL THE PARTS TOGETHER?
I GET IT.
!!

I've never heard Houtsuki-san play before...!
SFX "DOKUN"
HEY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU PRACTICING.
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO DO IT?
I DON'T NEED YOU TO WORRY.
OHH. IT'S OUR FIRST TIME HEARING HOUTSUKI-SAN PLAY!
SENPAI. WOULD YOU MIND GETTING US STARTED?
AH. SURE
THEN WHEN I SAY BEGIN, EVERYONE START PLAYING
SOUNDS OUT OF TIME
ENOUGH FROM YOU.
gaze

READY
AND ..
...BEGIN.
OHH.
From the fourth verse on, it's Houtsuki-san's juushichi-gen...
THAT...!

SO-SORRY!
HEY, WHY DID YOU ALL STOP?!
HOW... HOW SHOULD I SAY IT? IT DROWNED OUT EVERYONE ELSE'S PARTS...
Amazing...
She only played a little bit, but still...
doki
doki

It's so different...
...from us and from those kids.
Every note was perfect...
What a beautiful sound.
goose-bumps
What do I need to do...
...to make a sound like that?
DAMMIT...
WELL, DON'T JUST SIT THERE.
LET'S START AGAIN!
OKAY! AGAIN!
READY... BEGIN.
INTRO OKAY.
HOUTSUKI-SAN'S JUUSHICHI-GEN STARTS...

SFX: "CRACK"
ROWAN
From here on, everyone's going to be playing different things...
HMM...
beng
beng
beng
Ugh...
te
te
te
..TOTALLY MESSED UP...
HEY, YOU GUYS! DON'T MAKE SUCH DISTURBING SOUNDS!
NEITHER DID I!
EH? BUT I DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES!

IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE I WAS LISTENING THAT I'M PISSED OFF.
IS THAT SO?
SORRY...
.....
EVERYONE PLAYED IT CORRECTLY,
BUT THE TIMING WAS OFF.
LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE SOUNDS AROUND YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
UM...
THE SOUNDS AROUND ME...
?
OF COURSE HOW CAN YOU COMBINE THE PARTS TOGETHER IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS?
ISN'T IT OKAY IF I JUST FOCUS ON MY OWN PART? I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE SURROUNDING PARTS AS WELL?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND EITHER
BESIDES.
...EH?
WHAT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF WE JUST START AT THE SAME TIME, RIGHT?
WHEN PLAYING OUR OWN PARTS.
BESIDES.

HOW CAN WE COMBINE THE PARTS TOGETHER IF WE ALL PLAY HOWEVER WE WANT?!
YOU HAVE TO MATCH YOUR SPEED AND RHYTHM TO THOSE OF OTHERS.
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
IS IS THAT SO ?
BUT IF I LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS AROUND ME.
I'LL MESS UP ON MY PART
.....
How to listen...
I've never had to think about listening to and coordinating with others
How can I teach others based on a feeling...?
Eh...?
Unable to listen to the sounds around them... What's that...?
And what's with not knowing how to play together...?
You're not allowed to say disheartening things like, I can't do it!

"...and definitely won't be approved of!"

"If the person standing at the top can't do well, they won't be able to catch people's interest..."

"You will be responsible for the Houtsuki group in the future.

Being unable to do something, or not knowing how to do something... Things like that are unforgivable."

"If you have the time to cry,"

"go and practice some more!"

Grind.

.....

LET'S START AGAIN!

I'M FINE

HOUTSUK - SAN, ARE YOU OKAY .?

Ah...
He had enough.
My legs...
Legs...
I have no idea where to start coordinating.
THIS TIME IT'S TOO SLOW!
NO!
ONE BEAT TOO FAST!
FAINT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW
Listening to such disturbing sounds,
DISGUSTING...
HOUTSUKI-SAN,
IT'S ALREADY EIGHT O'CLOCK! IF WE DON'T PACK UP !
We'll be locked in here.
EH. ?
AH.
AGAIN.
LET'S START ALL OVER AGAIN...
Instead of us getting better at coordinating, it's becoming more messed up.
AH...
Why...?
"A koto-playing club?"
Yup.
I established Tokiyori High's Koto music club. Amazing, right?"
IS IT THIS HARD TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER PEOPLE...?
"...The koto music club?"
SILENCE
clatter
clatter

"The sound of a solo and..."
"Isn't playing solo good enough?"
"Do you understand?"
"...the sound made by your
when you spend
together
"...when you spend time
together..."
The sound of playing with

fidget
fidget
H-
HEY, FOUR-EYES, IS THIS OKAY ?
WE ONLY PRACTICED THREE LINES TODAY BECAUSE IT WAS SO TOUGH.
I'm really worried.
UM, WE... WE JUST STARTED PRACTICING TOGETHER
Stand up.
Glance
AH!
EVERYONE...
Takezou!
After this, let's..."
Houtsuki-san probably doesn't know what to do either...
How did I learn them back then?
Rhythm... coordination...
At times like this, Senpai would say...

Fried Squid Scene &
.....
ALL...
ALL OF US, TOGETHER!
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT, HOW ABOUT WE GO GRAB A MEAL TOGETHER...?!
I'LL PASS...
AH.
What should we eat?
Oh, great, great!
Oh.
GRAB

YOU SHOULD JOIN THE GROUP ONCE IN A WHILE.
EH...
!

Uwah! It smells really good!
I missed monjayaki
Kudou-kun...
drag
drag
OKAY, LET'S GET GOING
HUH?!
WAIT...
Ohh yeah! Dinner!

N-
NO WAY!
IT'S HER FIRST TIME.

DON'T TELL ME THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME GOING SOMEWHERE LIKE THIS?
glance

HERE YOU GO.
CHEESE RICE CAKES, COD ROE, AND...
...HEALTHY MONJAYAKI.
PLEASE ENJOY.
CLATTER

Eh?

?

Is Houtsuki-san going to cook for us?!

reach

FRY THEM QUICKLY!

They're all here!

UWAH~ THE PERFECT COMBO!!!

WOW!

The point of monjayaki is to mix them together randomly

EH?

Really?

A GIRL COOKING MONJA-YAKI?!

Wow!

THAT'S GOT TO BE BETTER THAN A GUY'S!

Thanks.

Yeah

FROZEN

...

EH...?

UWAAAH

...

.....

"LET ME DO IT IF YOU CAN'T..."

IT'LL HURT HER PRIDE IF I SAY THAT.

What should I do ?

AH... SORRY, YOU DON'T WANT TO?

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU...

LET US COOK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW, THEN JUST BE HONEST.
sizzle
NO ONE WILL BLAME YOU FOR IT.
WHEN THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW, JUST SAY SO.

〈BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE〉

AT TIMES WHEN YOU'RE LOST...
MAYBE WE'RE NOT VERY RELIABLE, BUT...
HOUTSUKI-SAN, YOU'RE EXPERIENCED AND YOU PLAY REALLY WELL,
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT AT EVERYTHING. AND BESIDES...

...AND YOU CAN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM ALONE,
LET'S ALL SOLVE IT TOGETHER.
Wow, looks yummy!
Ah, THIS ONE'S NEARLY DONE.
EH?
Is Is this the final product ?!
It's delicious!

HERE.

JUST LIKE THIS!
IT'S TASTIER WHEN IT'S A BIT BURNT!
SALIVATION

How is it?
...
DELICIOUS
...
"Being unable to do something, or not knowing how to do something. Things like that are unforgivable."
"When there are things you don't know, just say so."
"When you can't solve the problem alone, let's all solve it together."

I...
...I...
HOW TO COORDINATE...
HOW...
HOW TO TEACH THAT... I HAVE NO IDEA...
EV- EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I'VE ABLE TO DO IT NATURA...Y.

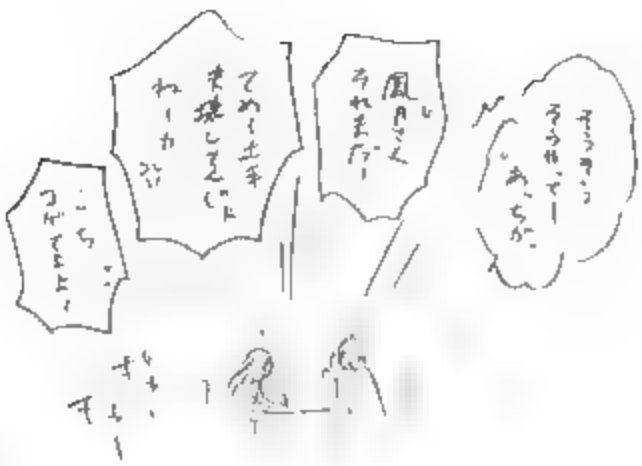
OKAY, OKAY, YOU TWO!
„WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
OUTSIDE OF KOTO, THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT YOU THAT CAN COORDINATE WITH OTHERS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT "UNABLE TO COORDINATE" MEANS!
THAT'S HOW IT IS! WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?!
You're really not cute!
THAT LAST SENTENCE WAS UNNECESSARY!

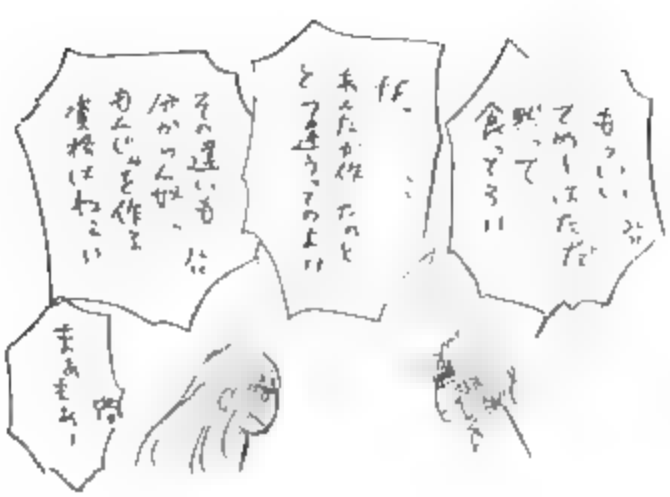
LET'S DISCUSS IT...
...TOGETHER.

YOU SEE, IT'S REALLY EASY TO CATCH THE RHYTHM IN A BAND, BECAUSE THERE'S A DRUMMER, RIGHT?
„ABOUT THE METHOD OF COORDINATING.
IT'S REALLY HARD RIGHT NOW TO COMBINE ALL THE MEMBERS TOGETHER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

.....

SO INSTEAD OF EVERYONE PLAYING TOGETHER,
ISN'T IT EASIER TO FOLLOW ONE PERSON'S BEAT?
Oh, I see!
THEN YOU GUYS FOLLOW ME.
WHY?!
!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW IF SOMEONE STARTS TAPPING THE BEAT
THEN WHY DON'T WE START BY TAPPING THE BEAT?
AND THEN WE CAN...
WHAT A LIVELY CONVERSATION!
HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU A DELUXE SET FOR FREE!
Eat up!
Uwah! Amazing~
You're the best, Oba-chan! Thanks!
GETTING CLOSER, STEP BY STEP...





Club activities: Every day. Working hard.

LET'S GO TO THE CLUB TOGETHER!

ガラッ

CHIKA~ HOUTSUKI-SAN!!

tap tap tap tap

SFX: OPEN

SFX: HUFF ZX

HUH? WHY DO I HAVE TO GO WITH YOU?

Eh~ you're so mean~

WE DECIDED ON IT AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDE-RATION.

Joining our sounds= joining our hearts

Which means, we have to deepen our understanding of each other.

And so, we have to increase our time being together...

SFX TAP 2X
WAIT CHIKA!
Come on, Houtsuki-san!
See ya, Tetsuki!
SFX HAHA
SEE YOU TOMORROW, TETSUKI.
HEY !!!
AH.
We were really serious!
SFX STAND
IT MUST BE TIRING HANGING AROUND THOSE BUNCH
NOT REALLY
TAKAOKA-KUN.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?
ME?
I'M NOT JOINING BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE TO BE CONSTRAINED BY TIME.
BLUNTLY
YOU SEEM CLOSE WITH THOSE GUYS.
...I SEE.
AND ALSO.

THEY AREN'T BAD GUYS, SO
BE NICE TO EACH OTHER, 'KAY?
.....
!!!
SFX WHISPER
Was that the rumored koto music club?
I really don't get those guys.
Kudou,
those three idiots
and Houtsuki-san who is beautiful but hard to approach...
then there's the president, Nadeshiko-chan from second year?
But, it sure is hard to imagine their performance.
AH.
Ah, I heard about that too
Is it like wrestling? Until someone falls down?
Seriously?
Eh? They're going to challenge the vice-principal?! With the koto?!
Besides, I heard the koto music club
is going to challenge the vice-principal in the morning assembly

I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO

THEIR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.

Day after day,
practicing the koto endlessly.

この音とまれ!

#6 The First Echo

1
2
3
4

SFX: CLAP 3X

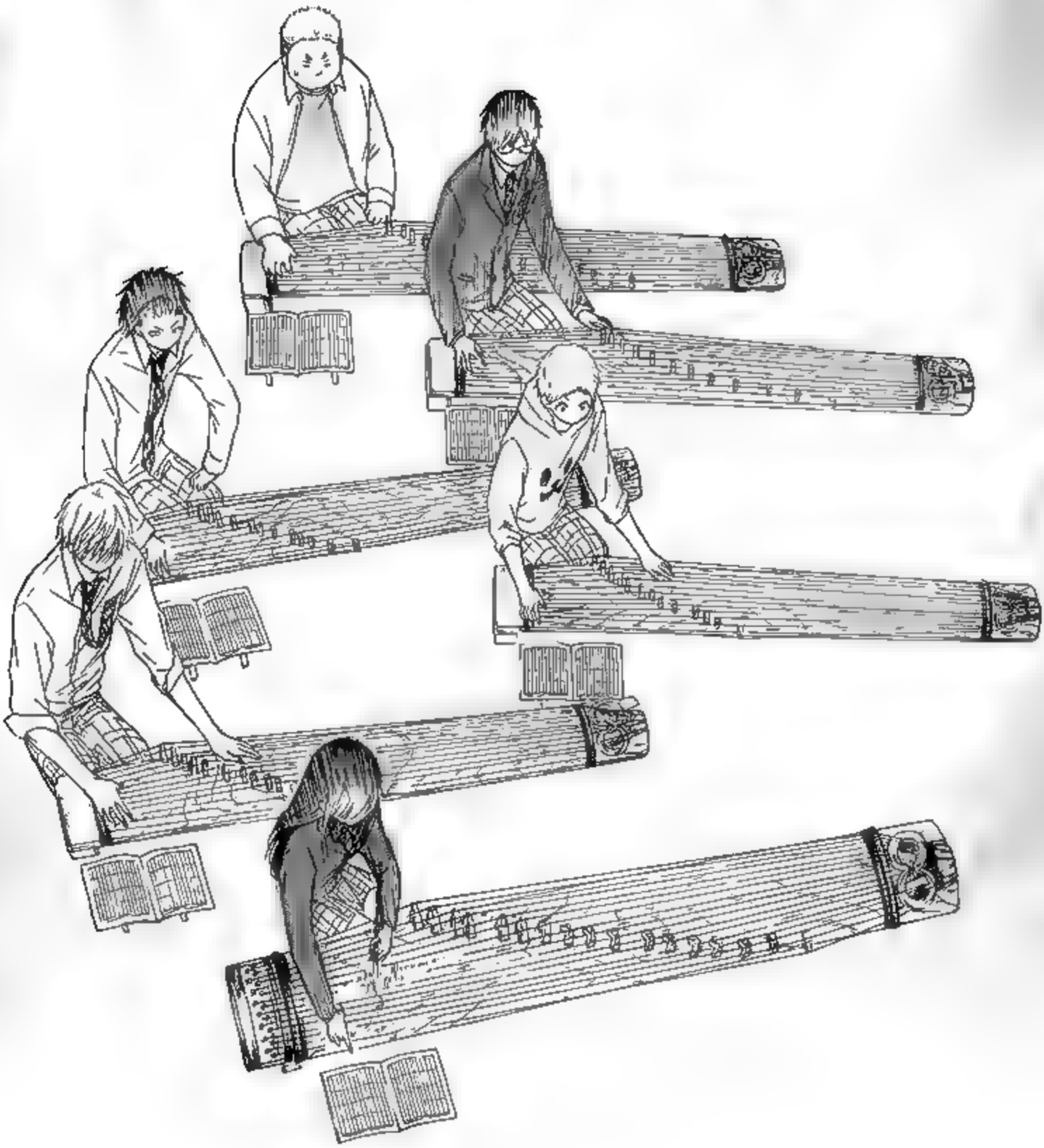
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE CLOSE TO THE PART OF THE JUUSHICHI-GEN.
TA-LA-LA-LA-LA JYAN SEPARATE!
1
2
3
4
1
2
3
4
SFX CLAP 2X
SFX CLAP 2X
SFX CLAP 2X
Ta-zi-ta zi-ta zita-zi-dang
PART TWO AND THREE STOP,
ENTER HERE!
1
2
3
4
TOGETHER!

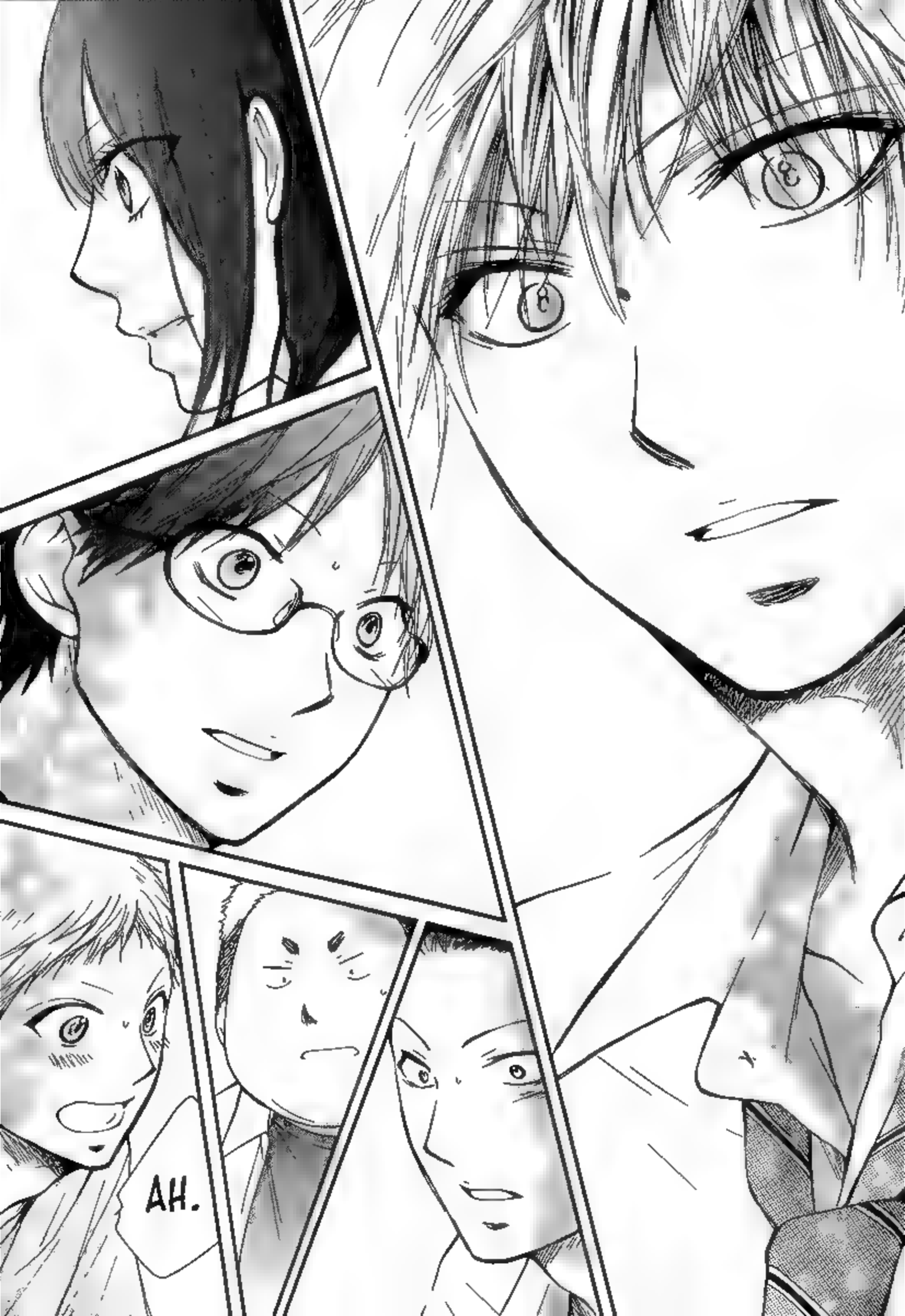
I HAVE A ROUGH IDEA WHERE I SHOULD ENTER. WHY DON'T WE TRY ONCE WITHOUT THE BEAT.
BUT, WE CAN'T RELY ON THEM TOO MUCH.
EH?
That was so fast!
Phew- I nearly lost it there!
OKAY, LET'S STOP IT HERE!
To be honest, it was so much different with the beat and Houtsuki-san's signals!
Easier to join!
.....
I THINK I'M OKAY TOO!
ONE STEP AT A TIME
ME TOO.
YEAH, ROUGHLY
CHIKA
YOU ALREADY REMEMBER WHERE TO ENTER?
LET'S TRY AGAIN WITHOUT THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT FAILURE
I DON'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE TOO
MIZUHARA-KUN,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH.

(BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE!)

SWIFTLY...
1
2
3
1
2
3
4
1
2
3
4
SFX TARA

RIGHT
NOW!!!




AH.

WE JOINED UP?!
AH, WE DID IT JUST THEN, RIGHT?!
IT FELT LIKE WE JOINED THE PARTS!
SWEET!
YOU IDIOTS! WHY DID YOU STOP WHEN WE FINALLY JOINED TOGETHER.
HOORAY
HOORAY.
You idiots
YOU'RE GOING OVER-BOARD!
YAY, WE'RE AMAZING !!!
WE DID IT!
WE DID IT! WE DID IT
THAT WAS GREAT...
Up until now~
Wow~ a promising future!
YAHOO
YAY
TCH.
But...
it felt really nice... just like an ensemble...
!!

Wow~
Let's celebrate!
why me...
Chika, praise me!
STARTLED
HEY YOU GUYS!
DON'T GET SO EXCITED OVER SMALL PROGRESSION. HURRY UP AND KEEP PRACTICING!
THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO!!
Yes!

.....
...DO I SEE MORE PEOPLE THAN USUAL?
AH, WE GOT CAUGHT?
U-UM... I'M REALLY SORRY.
I never thought they were practicing here all along...
AS THE PRESIDENT I KNOW NOTHING AT ALL
I really don't suit to be one...
WHATEVER, SINCE IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WITH ONE OR TWO MORE,
DO AS YOU LIKE
AH WAIT, GRANNY
HERE, A PRESENT FOR YOU.

WE'RE GRATEFUL TOO
THAT'S CHIKA'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS.
HE ACTS THAT WAY, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU.
WHY THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE?
Aren't you broke?
NOTHING.
SMILE
TL: *STRAWBERRY MOCHI
OPEN
MOVE AWAY
I STILL HAVE TO BRING OUT TWO MORE INSTRUMENTS FOR YOU.
HOW'S IT GOING
WITH THE
AH
HM
VISIT: FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM
OR SHOUJOSENSE.COM
TO DOWNLOAD THIS RELEASE IN HQ

Hm...what is that brat, Kudou, planning...
THAT IS IMPO-SSIBLE!
WHAT ?
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WOULD REALLY PLAY .
I DON'T BELIEVE IT TOO...
BUT
THEY'RE PRACTICING REALLY HARD
WHAT-EVER.
WE'LL HAVE THE ANSWER IN 2 WEEKS.
WHETHER IT'S THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB OR KUDOU, I'LL KICK THEM OUT OF THE SCHOOL.
YES.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
.. IS THAT FINE?
KOTO MUSIC CLUB'S COUNSELOR, TAKINAMI SENSEI?

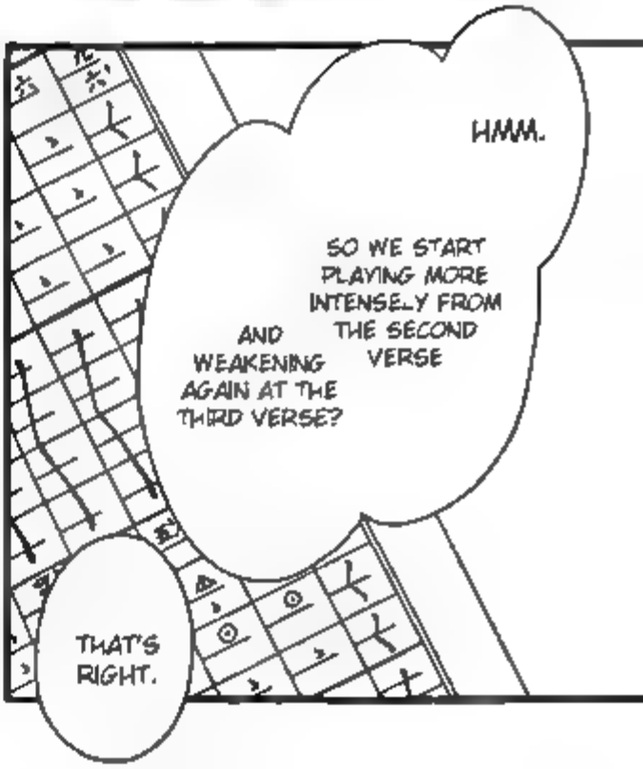
Anxious Anxious
WE FINALLY JOINED TOGETHER, BUT IT BECAME LIKE THIS AGAIN.
AH--
Damn
WE HAVEN'T PROGRESSED AT ALL.
STOP! IT'S MESSED UP AGAIN!
SFX CLAP 2X
SFX CHING 2X
SAKAI-KUN'S LEGS ARE NUMB. GET SOME REST.
HOUTSUKI-SAN, LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
SORRY, PRESIDENT FOUR-EYES.
SHIT.
THE ATMOSPHERE TURNED BAD AGAIN.
STOP COMPLAINING!
LET'S TRY AGAIN!
UWAH~ I'M REALLY SORRY EVERYONE
IT MUST BE MY FAULT FOR MESSING UP...
Open
Ow! Ow! Ow!
LET'S BRING IN SOME FRESH AIR
IT'S A BIT STUFFY

YOU GUYS ARE ALL BEGINNERS!
ESPECIALLY WHEN...
MIZU-HARA-KUN AND EVERYONE ARE PLAYING VERY WELL!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
IT'S NOT KOUTA'S FAULT...
UM THAT'S WHY...
President four-eyes
.....
TO REACH YOUR LEVEL RIGHT NOW...
TO BE HONEST, I SPENT A VERY LONG TIME
THAT'S WHY, IT'S FINE!
WE'LL MAKE IT IF WE KEEP ON PRACTICING. DON'T WORRY!

Shock
AH
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
Shit, I was too rash !!!
!
NO, THANK YOU.
wah
Well
let's start our practice!
We can do it!!
YOU SHOULD LOSE SOME WEIGHT.
WAIT, MY LEGS ARE STILL...
HOW ABOUT WE ONLY USE 3 STOOLS?

is so nostalgic.
Ah...
This kind of feeling
NISHINA MUSIC INSTRUMENTS

AND IT BRINGS OUT THE ATMO-SPHERE.
It really sounds better with ups and downs!
NOW I SEE


HMM.
SO WE START PLAYING MORE INTENSELY FROM THE SECOND VERSE
AND WEAKENING AGAIN AT THE THIRD VERSE?
THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU'VE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS A SONG'S MESSAGE?
...TO MAKE IT SIMPLE, IT'S THE SONG'S EMOTION OR THEME.
WHILE IMAGINING WHAT THE SONG WANTS TO EXPRESS,
IT'LL BE BETTER IF WE COULD INPUT OUR OWN FEELINGS INTO IT
IF WE DON'T DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SONG'S MESSAGE...
THE SONG WILL SOUND SHALLOW
BUT MERELY DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN INTENSE AND WEAK ISN'T ENOUGH.
HMM.
WHAT KIND OF SONG IS IT... RYUUSEIGUN..
.....
NO.
IT SEEMS THE WRITER WANTED THE PERFORMER TO IMAGINE IT HIMSELF
IS THERE AN EXPLANATION OF THE SONG BY THE WRITER?
FIRSTLY, WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE SONG..
Input feelings...?
What does that mean.
POOF
Ryuu
!!!
The instrument, koto
was made based off 'dragons'"

T/N RYUU MEANS DRAGON

HEY ARE KOTOS FAVORED BY DRAGONS?
!
SO KUDOU-KUN KNEW THIS TOO.
HE PROBABLY JUST GUESSED IT
I'VE REALLY HEARD ABOUT IT!
Don't look down on me
OH YEAH, HIS GRANDPA

SO WHAT ABOUT IT?
!
AH.
I WAS THINKING, THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY 'RYUUSEIGUN' WAS NAMED AFTER DRAGONS.
BY THE WAY, WHY DOES KOTO EQUAL DRAGON?
!
THIS IS ONLY MY INTERPRETATION.

THE SPECIES 'DRAGON'
HAS A VITAL EXISTENCE
THAT CONNECTS THE SKY AND EARTH, HEAVEN AND THE HUMAN WORLD.

...THAT'S WHY THE KOTO,
PROBABLY CONTAINS
THE WISH TO CONNECT THE HEARTS
OF THE PERFORMER AND THE AUDIENCE.

Uwah... sounds fascinating!!
...BUT IT SEEMS THERE'S A REAL HISTORICAL REASON BEHIND IT.
Eh... THE HEART OF THE PERFORMER AND THE AUDIENCE..

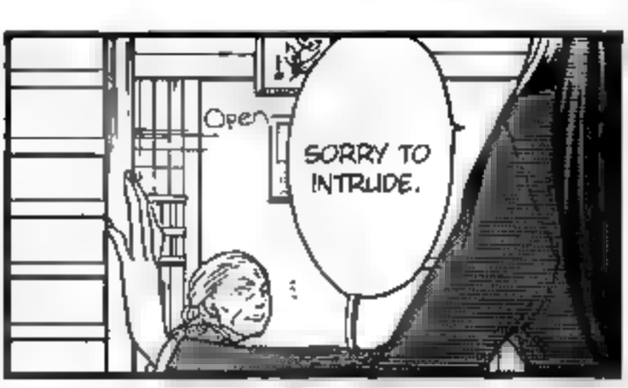
T/N: SEIGUN MEANS CONSTELLATION

is a song that wants to express 'I really want it to reach you!!!' with all efforts,

DOESN'T THIS SONG RELATE EXACTLY TO US!!
To deliver our true feelings that no one understands through this song.
The difficulty the vice principal gave us and hardships we went through will be absorbed into ryuuseigun and delivered out!!
Right, Houtsuki-san?!
!
Ah..
'I think it really suits our club'
...MIGHT BE

Wah.
SHE SMILED?!
HOUTSUKI-SAN JUST SMILED?!
Huh... of course I can smile!
No, it wasn't an evil smile or a fake smile!
Shut up!
Kya
Kya

SFX CLANG
AH JUST LEAVE IT HERE.
I'LL WASH IT.
UM
THANK YOU FOR THESE.


Open
SORRY TO INTRUDE.

YOU...

AH
YOUNG LADY.

IT'S FINE. HURRY AND GO PRACTICE.

...stop being arrogant, you old man
you're only making instruments miserably day after day.
...NO
IT'S NOTHING.
'...Contains
the wish to connect the hearts
"I don't want to go under-stand such a thing!"
"Ha
for a brat like you,
you won't be able to understand the charm of kotos.'"
of the performer and the audience.'

AH KUDOU-KUN.
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP PRAC-TICING, THEN I
AH JEEZ, WHO'S PLAYING
SFX: "PAN"

...This...
is a part of Ryuuseigun...?
DOKUN
Eh...
Messy... but
the feeling being expressed
gentle and warm...
...is very
That guy can't possibly play like this...
but it can't be...
THIS PART IS...
UGH ..!!

SFX: "DOKUN"

DOKUN
What's with this sound...
The emotion is strong yet soft...
I can't believe Kudou-kun played this.
DOKUN
THIS...
guy...
So attractive ...
...HA
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HUH?
Your style changed?!
How did you do it?!
What was that just then!!
Dammit, I made a mistake.
Ku-Kudou-kun!!
!
He... he doesn't notice...?!

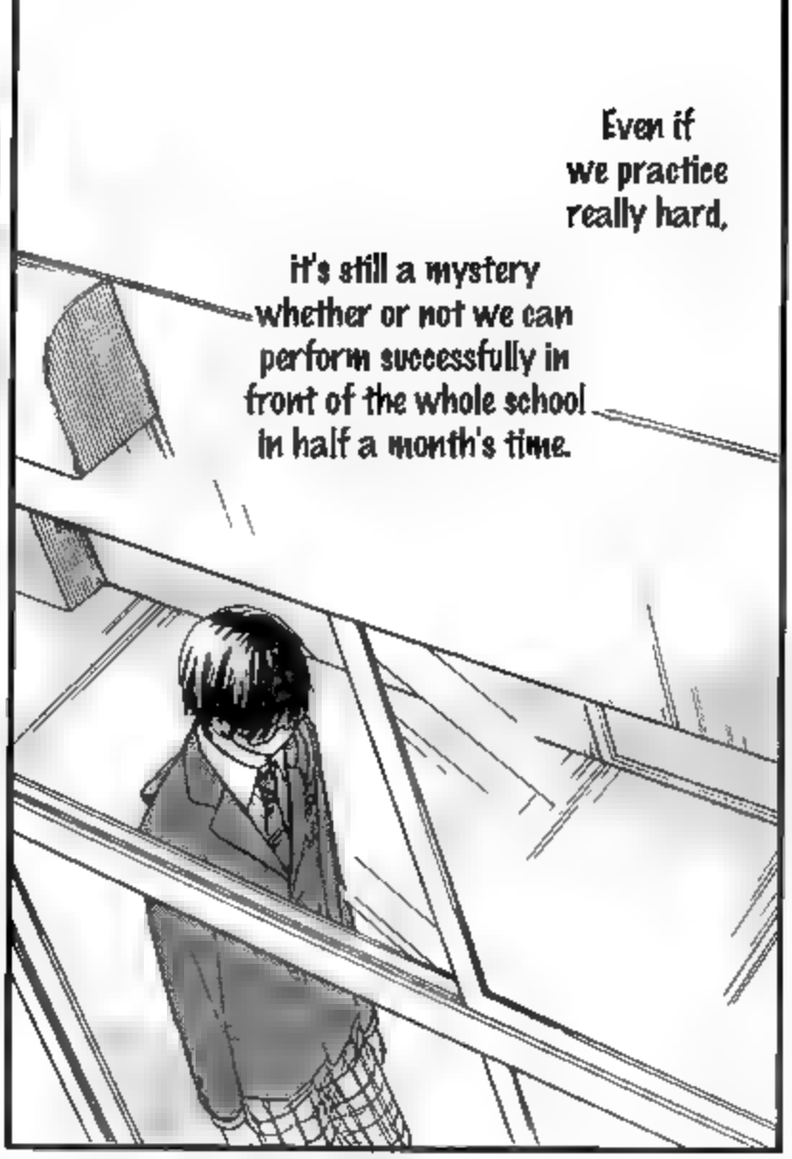
"It's none of your business"
...MY GRANDPA.
HUH?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
...YOU'VE PLAYED A LITTLE KOTO BEFORE, RIGHT...
WHO TAUGHT YOU?
...Houtsuki-san...
!
!!
interested
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
WHAT?
WHAT?
Practice already began?
AH
YEAH.

COINCI-DENCE ...?
See you tomorrow! bye
Just what was that yesterday...
...We practiced until very late that night
but Kudou-kun's 'different sound' only appeared that one time.
If he's able to master that, the vice principal will definitely...
...but when I was listening to Kudou-kun's sound
it felt really warm inside...
I REALLY AM USE-LESS..
... if only we have a person who can actually teach...
DE-PRESSED
KURATA ...
THE HOMEROOM TEACHER TOLD YOU TO HAND IN THE PAPERS WE PASSED UP.
EH
OKAY, I GOT IT.

AH, I HEARD RUMORS SAYING
YOU'RE BEING ORDERED AROUND BY DELINQUENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR.
WHAT?
AND... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Oh well...
I fail as a club president
and as a senpai...
IS THAT THE WAY... PEOPLE SEE IT?
...but, coming back to it...
all of them are trying their best to improve
yet it means nothing to everyone else, and their opinions haven't changed...

If our performance can't reach anyone..
dokun

SHAKE SHAKE
Ah, this isn't the time to lose confidence!!
Bump
Hey.


Even if we practice really hard,
it's still a mystery whether or not we can perform successfully in front of the whole school in half a month's time.

WHY DO I KEEP BUMPING INTO SOMEONE AS TRANSPARENT AS HIM
ISN'T THIS NADESHIKO-CHAN?
The pop band club...!!
The duo
IT'S THE SECOND TIME...

ER SORRY...
AH

EH...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
KUDOU-KUN AND THE OTHERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB
IT'S FOUR-EYES.
BY THE WAY, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR SAD SITUATION!
SEEMS LIKE THAT KUDOU AND HIS FRIENDS ARE BULLYING YOU!
AHAHAHA 'MEMBERS'?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
ANGRY
No...
They're all serious about learning koto...
EH, MAYBE HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT HE'S BEING BULLIED?!
Ugh...
THAT MUST BE IT.
YOU'RE TOO EMBARRASSED TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE BEING BULLIED BY PEOPLE YOUNGER THAN YOU.

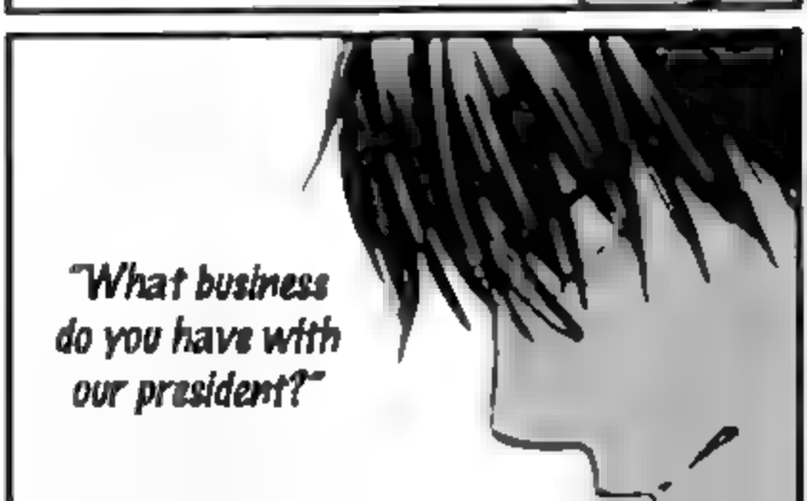
TAKEZOU
SENPAI.

AREN'T YOU
GOING TO COME OVER TO THE CLUB?
IT'S STARTING SOON.
KUDOU-KUN...

Ah?
What business do you have with our president?
KU-KUDOU...
EH
NONE...
IF THERE'S NOTHING, THEN HURRY UP AND DISAPPEAR.
Ah...
wave
wave
Dammit he treated us like idiots!
AH.
I HAVE TO GO TO THE TEACHER'S ROOM FIRST...
I SEE.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE CLUB?
JUST WHAT WERE THEY THINKING, THOSE JERKS.
What was that
THEN, SEE YOU LATER.
Ah
Ku... Kudou-kun!!

FOR WHAT?
THANK YOU!

"Takezou senpai"


"What business do you have with our president?"

め
せ
全国!!
軽音楽部
SFX._*SLAP*

I SHOULD THINK ABOUT HOW WE CAN PERFORM SO THAT IT *WILL* REACH PEOPLE.
RATHER THAN THINKING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCE OF OUR SONG NOT REACHING ANYONE,

to protect that place.
Must reach out
Open
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT BEING TOGETHER.
How can that be.
SANE AND SANAI BOTH HAVE CLEANING DUTY TODAY!
IT'S SO RARE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE TODAY?
AH
!
HOUTSUKI-SAN!
Good thing you came, Houtsuki-san!
Though that's what I decided, but I can't even tune the koto by myself!
I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M A HINDER TO YOU GUYS, SO I THOUGHT I BETTER PRACTICE MORE!
BESIDES
I PLAY THE WORST COMPARED TO EVERYONE ELSE...

...WHY ARE YOU TRYING SO HARD?
WEREN'T YOU GUYS UNINTERESTED IN KOTO IN THE BEGINNING?
IF IT'S BECAUSE OF THE VICE PRINCIPAL AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITY.
BECAUSE CHIKA IS DOING HIS BEST.
...EH...
WE'RE LEARNING KOTO SO SERIOUSLY
BECAUSE CHIKA IS DOING HIS BEST.

I'm not interested in knowing why that guy wants to learn koto... am I?
.....
Ah...
THE REASON WHY THAT GUY WANTS TO PLAY KOTO...
IS BECAUSE OF HIS GRANDPA'S INFLUENCE, RIGHT...?
Ah, so Houtsuki-san already knows about it?!
Seems like you two already became friends!
EH
NO...
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S BECAUSE OF HIS GRANDPA! BUT IT REALLY SURPRISED US WHEN CHIKA SAID HE WANTED TO LEARN THE KOTO!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT MENTIONING THE KOTO AND HIS GRANDPA WOULD BE A HEAVY BLOW FOR HIM TO BEAR.
!!

HEAVY BLOW?
BECAUSE
...EH...?
ALL OF A SUDDEN... THE TRUTH.

鳳月さとわ

誕生日：7月29日
星　座：獅子座
血液型：O型
身　長：158cm
体　重：？
兄　弟：一人っ子
好きなもの：最近もんじゃが
　　好きになった
苦手なもの：冷めたご飯
学校が休みの日は：言いたくない

⚠ 言ってしまえばお箏バカです。
箏以外、色んなことに不器用です。
ちなみに「さとわ」は
サンスクリット語から。
意味は「調和・愛・純粋・創造」など…。

Koto Oto Tomare!

Amyuu

CHAPTER 7 VARIOUS EMOTIONS

"I always thought mentioning the koto and his grandpa
...EH...
would be a heavy blow for him to bear."
ALTHOUGH CHIKA GAVE A REALLY BAD IMPRESSION,
IT'S GREAT NOW THAT HE CAN GET BACK ON TRACK...
Jeez... I've said a lot, haven't I?
Oh yeah, don't tell Chika about what I just said, 'kay?
shy
Doki
Doki
ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T HELP MUCH,
WE CAN STILL SUPPORT HIM AND STAY BY HIS SIDE.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO HIS GRANDPA, THE KOTO, IN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB THAT HIS GRANDPA CREATED.
BY TRYING HARD TO UNDER-STAND

Liar...
A guy who used to mess around...
EH?! WAIT, HOUTSUKI-SAN?!
SFX DASH
?
HOUTSUKI-SAN?
Yet ...
His grandpa passed away around the same time.
He is looked down upon by everyone.
and wreak havoc with his own grandpa's house and instruments...
is not someone that should be forgiven.

〈BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS AND SHOUJO SENSE〉

He blamed himself and held himself responsible for...
everything.
"If we have to disband the club because we can't find any members, it'd be all your fault!"
What should I do?
"A person who damages musical instruments doesn't have the requirements to play koto."
"Letting someone like you to carry the koto... What if you damage it!?"
What should I do?
What should I do?

"In the end, it's all your fault!"
NGH...
BAM
UWAH.
!

YOU ...
YOU'RE... CRYING...?
THAT'S IMPO-SSIBLE!
IT'S JUST HAY FEVER!
Geh?!
...
IT ...
SEEMS PRETTY SERIOUS ..
Hay fever
Awkward
Search
.....

IF YOU WANT TO COME TO THE CLUB
I'LL LET FOUR-EYES KNOW
Peel
"I want to be qualified."

Pocket
SORRY!!!

I ALSO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO PLAY THE KOTO...
AH... ABOUT YOUR GRANDPA.
I FOUND OUT... EVERY-THING..
...I'M SORRY...
I SAID A LOT OF HORRIBLE THINGS..
...I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING BEFORE.
WHAT?
I... I'M BEING SERIOUS...
IT'S KIND OF SCARY THAT YOU'RE BEING SO NICE.

Satowa-chan.
You're surprisingly cute.
So that was the reason you were crying?
Grin
...
"The koto's sound doesn't lie.
That person's true character is embedded within."
HURRY TO THE CLUB!
AH?!
HA... HARD TO BELIEVE~ THAT A NORMAL PERSON WOULD KICK SOMEONE TO APOLOGIZE ...
Still not cute
IF YOU WEREN'T A GIRL, I WOULD DEFINITELY KICK YOUR ASS!
WAH?!
SHUT UP, STUPID!!
SFX. KICK

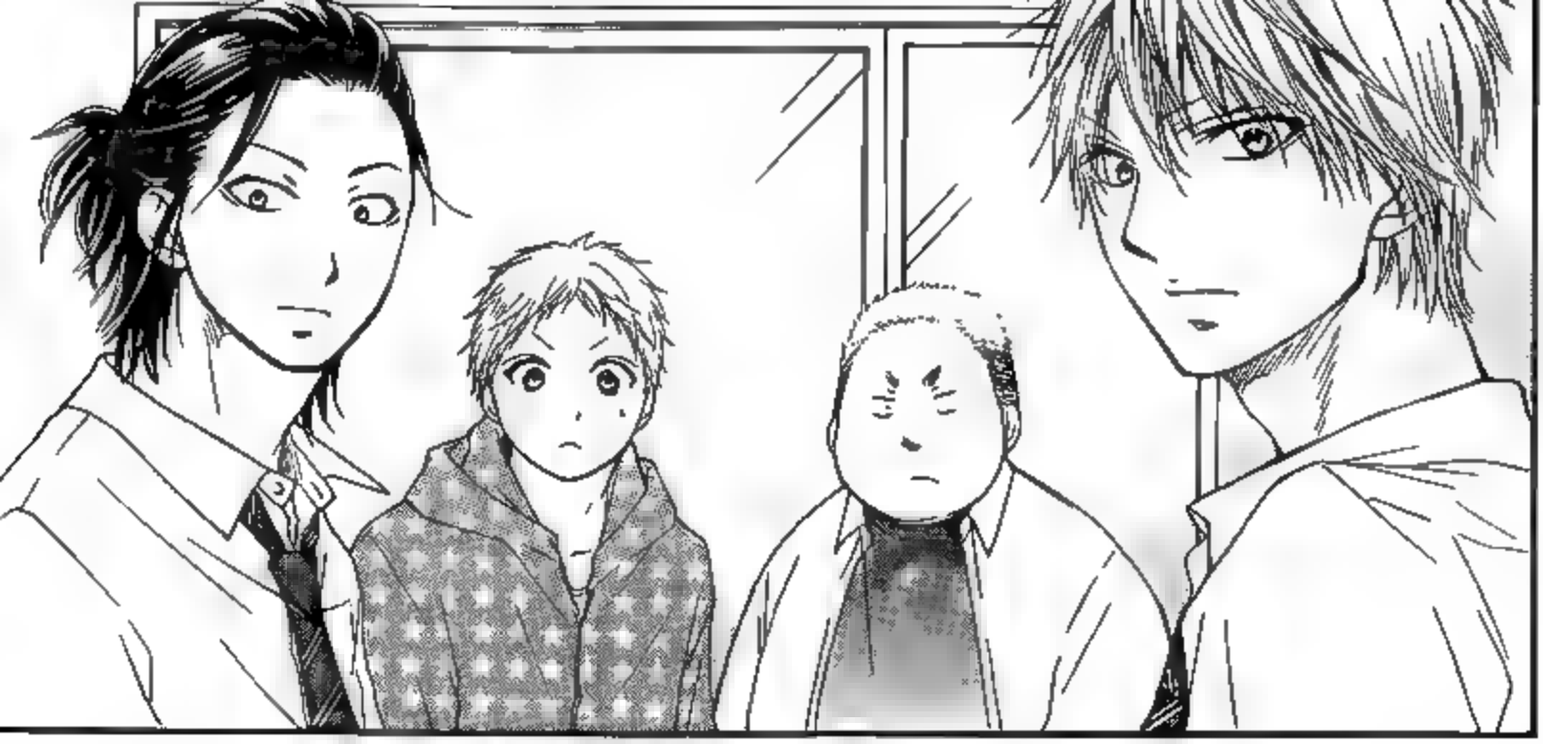
The sound...
of his koto playing...
ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE... OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?
YES.
DIDN'T I MENTION IT BEFORE?

THE DATE IS DECIDED.
IT WILL BE DURING THE MORNING ASSEMBLY TWO WEEKS FROM NOW.
IT SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?
IT'S FINE ...
BUT ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS?
YES, IT'S CERTAIN!
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
THEY WERE PLAYING AROUND IN THE CLUB ROOM!
WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING!
IT'LL BE TOO LATE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS!
Then we kick them all out of the school...!!
!
ANYWAY! EVERYTHING WILL BECOME CLEAR IN TWO WEEKS!
... THAT'S RIGHT.
Smile
!

TO BE ABLE TO HEAR IT SO SOON...
I'M REALLY LOOK'NG FORWARD TO IT.
I ALSO PLAN TO HEAR THEIR PERFORMANCE

smile
...

DURING THE MORNING ASSEMBLY IN TWO WEEKS!
... IT'S BEEN DECIDED
THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE HELD...



I REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I PERFORMED IN FRONT OF PEOPLE WAS WHEN I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A BEAN IN THIRD GRADE...
MY STO-MACH HURTS ...
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR MY HEART
UWAH! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
WORRY
WORRY
WORRY

WAH! REALLY ?!
WE REALLY HAVE TO PLAY!!
Th-though it's been decided long ago..
I'M GETTING ALL NERVOUS NOW THAT THE DATE'S BEEN ANNOUNCED...!
THE MORNING ...IT'D BE BAD IF I OVER-SLEEP...

...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
Hmph
He's too mean! Too mean, too mean.

WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM YOU!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE GETTING NERVOUS NOW
IDIOTS.
ANYWAY, PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY'RE NOT NERVOUS ARE THE ONES WHO MESS UP IN THE REAL THING!
Good for-nothing

YOU JUST HAVE TO PRACTICE MORE
SO YOUR BODIES GET USED TO AND MEMORIZE THE WAY TO PLAY.
THEN EVEN IF YOU GET NERVOUS AND YOUR MIND GOES BLANK,
YOUR FINGERS WILL STILL MOVE ON THEIR OWN.
HOU-TSUKI-SAN
BUT YOU GUYS
AREN'T AT THAT LEVEL... YOU'LL DEFINITELY FAIL.
SFX TEARY
SFX FWOOSH
SFX COLD
what did you say
AN-ANYWAY!!
LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN RIGHT NOW SO THAT WE WON'T REGRET IT!!
THERE ARE STILL TWO WEEKS UNTIL THE PERFOR-MANCE.
OH...
OH...
SIGN: KOTO MUSIC CLUB

STOP!
HUH?
YOU HAVE TO PLAY IT WITH CORE.
SINCE YOU HAVE A SOLO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SONG, THAT PART THAT CATCHES ATTENTION.
YOU HAVE TO USE TREMBLE ON THAT PART.

Scratch
DO I HAVE TO HARDEN MY FINGERS MORE?
SOUND WITH CORE...
WHAT'S THAT?
HOW DO I DO IT?
THAT'S NOT IT...
...
...
LIKE-
LIKE THE WAY YOU PLAYED BEFORE.
!
WHEN IS 'BEFORE'?
LIKE THE TIME YOU PRACTICED BY YOURSELF AT THE MUSIC STORE...!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ON ABOUT!
WHO REMEMBERS!
HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T REMEMBER? WHAT A USELESS GUY!
WAH...
Hit her
certainly need to hit her
I KNOW WHAT HOUTSUKI-SAN IS TRYING TO EXPRESS.
BUT "SOUND WITH CORE" IS HARD FOR A BEGINNER!
And it's so abstract!
!

SFX. ANGER
HOW COULD SOMEONE LIKE KUDOU PLAY SUCH A SOUND.
I'M AN IDIOT FOR HAVING HOPE IN HIM.
SO IT SEEMS
...
SFX TURN
Noise
Noise
Why..
IT SEEMS THAT HOUTSUKI-SAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS KUDOU-KUN GOT WORSE...
WHA- WHAT'S WITH THIS...
SAY IT AGAIN, YOU BASTARD!!
HOUTSUKI-SAN, YOU SAID TOO MUCH!
CALM DOWN, CHIKA!
HEY ...
?
You Bastards
You're not in a rock band
So mean
He's too violent!
Although it's only one line, it's really important, so don't mess up!
Smirk
Pat
WE DON'T EXPECT MUCH OF YOU!
IT'LL BE FINE!
WELL THAT'S THAT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

...Sound with core...
NOT HARDENING MY FINGERS MORE.
Annoyed
Annoyed
Poof
We have to use stools for the real performance?
It's about time to practice on the stands.
Strike? What? Won't the strings break?
The trick to start is a strong strike like this.
I've memorized the whole score.
Why did you come all the way to my house to practice?
If you have to play a weak sound, your tempo might slow down. Be aware of that

SFX: DAAN

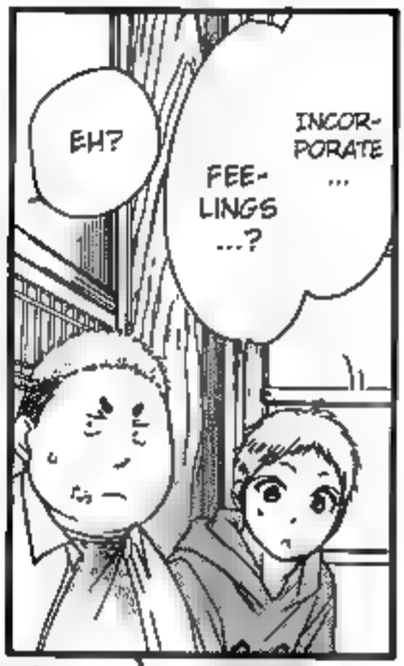
HA!
YAHOO !!
WE DIDN'T STOP AND PLAYED UNTIL THE END THIS TIME!!!
Played from memory.
SFX WAH

Houtsuki-san! We did it!
IF WE CAN KEEP THIS UP IN THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE ...!
Woh Woh
TWIRL TWIRL
I did it, Chika!
DON'T STICK TO ME!
Ah... OH NO... I'M ABOUT TO CRY.
Teary
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY HAPPY. CAN'T YOU BE HONEST ONCE IN A WHILE?
YOU'RE NOT CUTE AT ALL IF YOU ACT LIKE THAT
WHY SHOULD I BE HAPPY?
IT'S BASIC TO BE ABLE TO PLAY THE WHOLE SONG.
TH-THAT ONLY REACHED THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF THE REQUIREMENT.
EVERY-ONE, LET'S TAKE A BREAK. I MADE TEA.
THANK YOU!
WE HAVE TO PRACTICE MORE FROM NOW ON.
ALL R.GHT. IT'S A HUGE PROGRESS TO US.

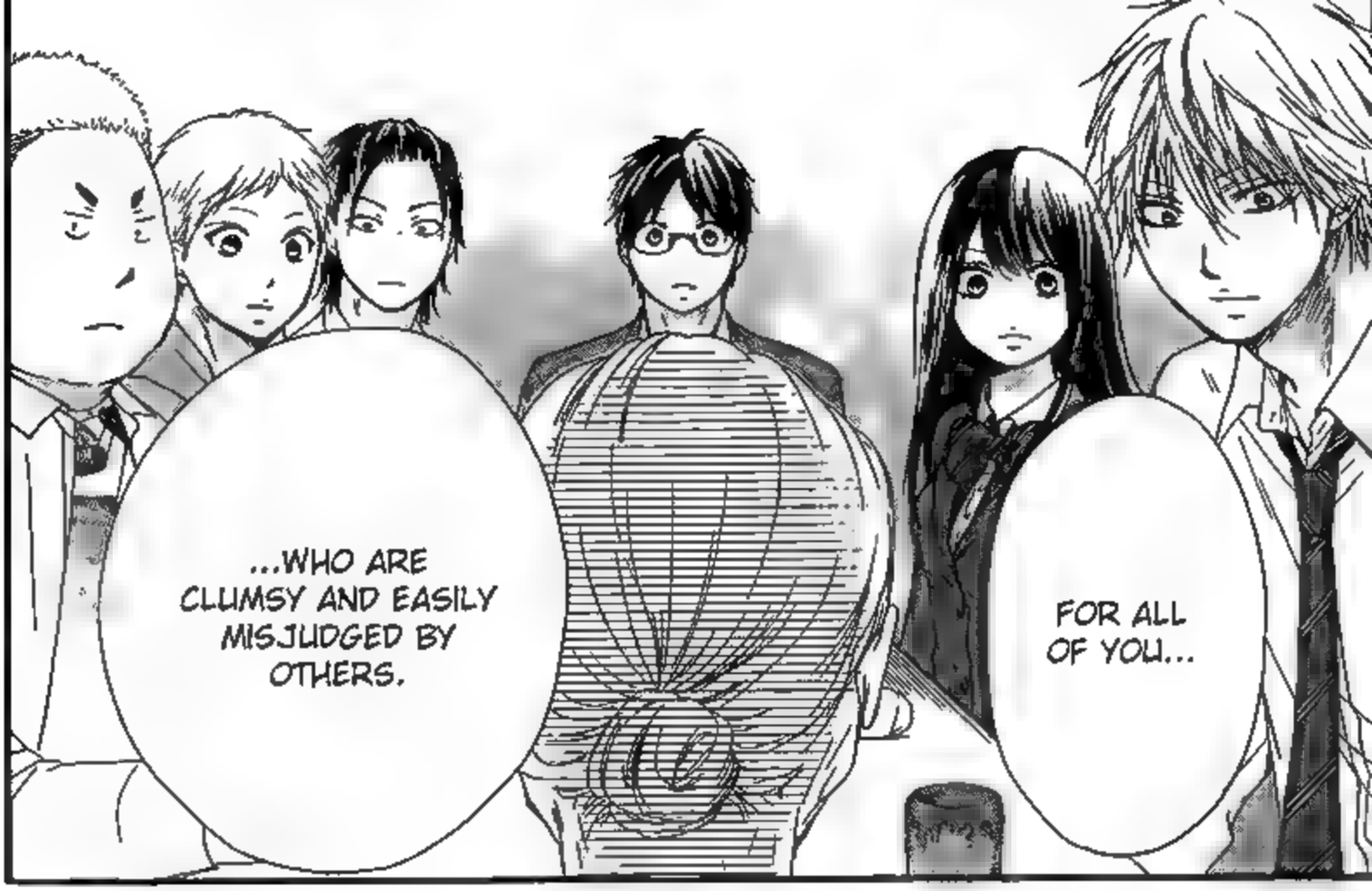
SFX PUFF
SFX SIP
GOOD TO HEAR THAT
It makes me feel relaxed. .
The sweets are yummy
GRANNY'S TEA IS REALLY NICE!!
AHH... TASTES GOOD
HOWEVER, IF IT WAS A TEST, IT'S FAR FROM PASSING.
... AND THE SONG IS TAKING SHAPE
Sip
MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE, RIGHT?
Grin
HEY GRANNY, HOW WAS OUR PERFORMANCE?
IT'S NOT EASY TO PLAY A SONG THAT TOUCHES THE AUDIENCE'S HEART.
THAT GIRL PROBABLY KNOWS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THAT KIND OF COMMENT?
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO USE THIS PERFORMANCE TO GET EVERYONE'S ACCEPTANCE?

YOU HAVE ENOUGH PRACTICE
YOUR SKILLS ARE NOT BAD,
AND YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH.
...
THE NEXT STEP IS
INCORPORATING YOUR FEELINGS.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO PLAY THE KOTO?
TO WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEND YOUR MUSIC?
IF YOU JUST PUT IN A LITTLE FEELING INTO IT, THE WHOLE SONG WILL CHANGE.


EH?
INCOR-PORATE ...
FEE-LINGS ...?

IT'S LIKE TELLING SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SOMEONE DEAR. TRY IT OUT.
MUSIC IS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WHO CANNOT EXPRESS THEMSELVES WELL WITH WORDS.
IT'S ANOTHER FORM OF LANGUAGE.


...WHO ARE CLUMSY AND EASILY MISJUDGED BY OTHERS.
FOR ALL OF YOU...

IT'S REALLY SUITABLE.
箏
"...Why do you want to play koto?
曲
To who do you want to send your music?"

Haha~ Right

Slap
Yo~ Chika!!
Morning
LET'S GO IN.
WHY ARE YOU STANDING HERE?!
Open
I'M SAYING YOU'RE BEING TOO NOISY.
MEANIE... YOU'RE SCARY, CHIKA.
Pout
CHIKA-CHAN DOESN'T FEEL WELL IN THE MORNING
IT'S DUE TO LOW BLOOD PRESSURE.
WOW!
IT'S BECAUSE I CAME EARLY TODAY.
THE INSTRUMENTS ARE ALREADY SET UP?!
AH, GOOD MORNING HOUTSUKI-SAN

Pout
WHY CAN'T I EVEN HUG HER?
YOU COME OVER HERE.
DON'T HUG WHOEVER YOU SEE.
WAIT!!
Like!!
Stick
Wan... Thank you Houtsuki-san.
WE'RE ALL MEMBERS OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
"What do you mean members of the same club?"
!!!
Open
EH.

Everyone must have their own reasons

to have joined the Koto Music Club.

There's only one reason to play koto.
Then...
It's finally the morning of the performance.
WE HAVE TO CARRY THE INSTRUMENTS OURSELVES.
SO WE'LL HAVE TO TRANSFER THE KOTOS AND THE STANDS TO THE GYMNASIUM FIRST.
BEFORE THE MORNING ASSEMBLY,
WE HAVE TO SET UP AND ADJUST THE MICRO-PHONES.
THEN WE SHOULD REHEARSE.

CLATTER
AN-ANYWAY, LET'S TAKE THE KOTOS FIRST.
I DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT...
UWAH! I'M REALLY NER-VOUS.
Shudder
Shiver — Shiver
Hold
!
WAIT!
.....
... IT'S A BIT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO CARRY THE JUUSHICHI-GEN,
SO CAN YOU CARRY IT?
I'LL CARRY YOURS.

WHAT IF I DAMAGE IT?
THEN PAY FOR IT.
Chatter
Chatter
HEY, TODAY'S THE RUMORED BATTLE BETWEEN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB AND THE VICE-PRINCIPAL, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT IS IT FOR REAL? IT'S NOT A JOKE?
KUDOU AND THE REST WILL PROBABLY MESS AROUND ...
SEEMS PRETTY INTERES-TING.
WHY IS IT THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB ANYWAY?

THE ENTIRE SCHOOL IS OUTSIDE...
EH... ARE WE REALLY GOING TO PERFORM?
IT'S NOT TRUE, RIGHT?
AH... I MIGHT THROW UP.
GYAAAA~
CHIKA'S AMAZING ...
HE'S SO CALM..
I CAN'T DO IT
TH-THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT WILL YOU DO LATER IF YOU'RE ALREADY SCARED
IT'S TRUE.
SFX STRESSED
Eh
BUT HE'S SWEATING A LOT!!!
Doki
Dammit... What's with me?
My heart's beating so fast... Am I going to die?
My hands are really cold.
Doki
Doki
Doki Doki Doki
IT LOOKS LIKE KOUTA GAVE UP...
Ah such pretty flowers. Hanaha (a) so cute)
WE CAN'T HELP HIM ANYMORE ...
HEY, IS IT OKAY?
WON'T HE BE DEHYDRATED?
SHUT UP... IT'S BECAUSE OF THE HEAT FROM THE BLAZER!

How are we going to perform...?!
Dok,
Dok,
The rehearsal just now...
Dok,
Dok,
Ah shit, my hands are getting numb.
The sound was completely different through the microphone...
The sound from the background was different.
What should I do?
PETRIFIED
Startled
FIRST OF ALL THE PRINCIPAL ...
WE WILL BEGIN THE MORNING ASSEMBLY ..
SFX DOK 4X
If I... don't say anything right now...!!

Everyone's really nervous.
As the president, if I don't say anything...!!
Feeling uneasy.
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY...?
SFX SHUDDER-ZX
WE CAN DEFINITELY DO IT.
...EH...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY,
BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW WORRIED YOU ARE,
OR HOW BLANK YOUR MIND IS,
YOUR FINGERS WILL REMEMBER HOW TO PLAY.

BUT DIDN'T YOU ..
BUT NOW,
WITH HOW YOU GUYS ARE NOW,
IT'LL BE FINE.
DEFINITELY.
Houtsuki-san...
Teary
THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS SINCE I'M HERE.
NO MATTER HOW BAD YOU PLAY, I'LL USE MY PERFORMANCE TO COVER UP YOUR FLAWS.
Hmph

SORRY.
THANK YOU.
I SHOULD'VE STRAIGHTENED MYSELF UP JUST THEN.
HOU-TSUKI-SAN
What do you mean?!
!
Do you have something to say coward?

AH THAT'S NOT TRUE
I MIGHT HAVE SPOKEN TOO MUCH
FROM SENPAI'S VIEW,
NO, IT'S MY BAD.

... BEFORE, I ALWAYS BELIEVED
THAT GROUP PERFORMANCES ARE REALLY SCARY BECAUSE IF ONE PERSON MAKES A MISTAKE, HE'LL SET BACK EVERY-ONE ELSE
!

AND TO COMPENSATE FOR THE FLAWS OF EACH PERSON.
IS TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT
I REALIZED THAT THE MEANING OF A GROUP PERFORMANCE
BUT NOW
THANKS FOR ALWAYS HELPING ME OUT, SENPAI
THE OLD ME WOULD COMPLETELY IGNORE EVERYTHING AROUND ME IF I CAME ACROSS ISSUES ABOUT KOTO
MOTSUKI-SAN

ALRIGHT, NEXT UP,
THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WILL GIVE US A PERFORMANCE.
!
HMM...
IT'S NEARLY THE END OF THE MORNING ASSEMBLY.
THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT EVERYONE TO JUDGE. TODAY,
SFX CHATTER 2x
WAH!
IT'S HERE!
THE VICE PRINCIPAL HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.
GIVE A PERFORMANCE?
ISN'T IT A BATTLE?

ABOUT A MONTH AGO,
THEY MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH ME.
HEY, WHAT ARE THEY HOLDING?
WHAT'S THAT?
IS THAT A WEAPON?
TO DECIDE WHETHER THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB SHOULD DISBAND OR NOT.
READY?
FIRST OFF ARE THE STANDS.
ROGER!
IF THEY CAN'T FULFILL THAT AGREEMENT,
THEN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WILL BE DISBANDED TODAY.
Clatter
Clatter
THAT AGREEMENT IS...
TO PLAY A PERFORMANCE THAT EVERYONE HERE CAN ACCEPT.

SFX CHATTER
THAT'S ALL FROM ME.
LET'S PRAY FOR THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
ガヴ
IT'S NOT A FIGHT? THAT'S BORING.
MAYBE ... THEY'RE GOING TO PLAY FOR US?
EH? WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
What
Huh?

SFX CHATTER 2X
I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE CLASSROOM.
SO LAME.
Just play whatever
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB~
WHO KNOWS.
BUT, CAN KUDOU EVEN PLAY?
OTHERWISE, WHAT ELSE IS THIS FOR?

SFX CHATTER 2X
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S AN ADVANTAGE FOR US.
ANYWAY, IT'S STILL THE SAME KOTO.
Ah, I don't feel that nervous anymore.
THEN, LET'S BRING THE INSTRUMENTS LIKE THIS
IT FEELS ...
LIKE A BATTLE...

We got this!
LET'S TRY OUR BEST!
NO ONE SEEMS TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT LISTENING TO OUR PERFORMANCE.
ME TOO!
I FEEL RELAXED ALL OF A SUDDEN.
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S RIGHT...
BESIDES,
WE'RE NOT FIGHTING ALONE.

ALRIGHT!
LET'S GO!!
What is protecting
our club is our "sound"...!

水原光太

誕生日：1月23日
星　座：水瓶座
血液型：AB型
身　長：170cm
体　重：58kg
兄　弟：姉が三人
好きなもの：辛いもの（ハバネロ大好き）
苦手なもの：生魚
学校が休みの日は：サネ、みっつと遊ぶか
誰か女の子とデート

⚠ 好きな人に抱きつくクセがありますが、
深い意味はありません。
嫌いな人には素直に嫌いと言っちゃいます。

足立実康

誕生日：6月25日
星　座：蟹座
血液型：A型
身　長：175cm
体　重：64kg
兄　弟：姉一人、妹一人
好きなもの：ラーメン・チャーハン・炭酸
苦手なもの：特になし
　　人の作ったものなら、マズくても食べる
学校が休みの日は：コータ、みっつといるか、
　　姉ちゃん、妹にパシらされるか
　　買い物に付き合わされるか(荷物持ち)

⚠ 気性の荒い姉と生意気な妹に挟まれて
育ちましたが、まだ女の子に夢を
抱くことをあきらめてはいません。

堺 通孝

誕生日：3月3日
星　座：魚座
血液型：O型
身　長：164cm
体　重：86kg
兄　弟：妹二人、弟一人
好きなもの：お腹を満たしてくれるなら何でも好き
　　薄味よりは濃い味派
苦手なもの：綿菓子(食べた気がしない)
学校が休みの日は：サネ、コータと遊びに行くか
　　弟妹の世話・家事

⚠ 今の一番の敵は正座です。
生まれて初めてダイエットしようか考え中。
妹と弟の成長に、よく涙してます。

こんなん描いちゃいましたが 実際みなさまめちゃくちゃ優しいです。 全力で頼っちゃってます。 ごめ

ものすっごくどうでもいい裏話
ある日のパソコン作業中
カタカタ
いきなりパソコンの画面が横方向になった
しゃいん?
びてっ
!!?
…
??
このパソコン…縦にしても使えたのか…
でも私は横で使いたい…どうすれば…
はっ こんな時こそネット!?
「パソコンの画面が横に――」うわ なんか質問アホっぽい…
あっ でも同じことになってる人いた!
アホちゃうすみません
てなわけでどーなるかと思いましたが自力で直せたんですよ!
やーでもこのパソコン縦でも使えるんですねー
ドヤ顔
ばっ
かじゃねーの!!
使えるか!
ただの不具合だ!
え…

SPECIAL THANKS

夕希 実久 様　　遠藤 達哉 様　　壱川 七宇 様
木村 聡 様　　岡野 正 様　　木ノ下 奈史 様
朝吹まり 様　　彩原その 様　　平浜 矢陸 様
浅月 舞 様　　上稚 ゆう 様　　（順不同）

みな様 お忙しい中
助けに来ていただき
本当にありがとうございました…!! ﾃﾃﾁｬ

担当編集
林 士平 様

頼りにしとります…!

たまに「お手紙どこに送れば
いいですか？」と聞いて下さる方が
いたりするので
お手紙のあて先
〒101-8050
東京都 千代田区一ツ橋
2-5-10 集英社
ジャンプスクエア 編集部

コミックス編集　黒木竜介 様
コミックスデザイン　石野竜生 様
販売部　浜田絵里子 様
いつもありがとうございます!

アミュー
気が向いたれば
ぜひ
感想送って下さいます。

家族
友だち
いつもありがとう!

この本に携わって下さった
全てのみな様
そして読んで下さった
みな様
本当にありがとうございました
!!

3巻も
どうぞよろしく
お願いいたし
ます!!

3巻…出るよ
やったー!
ﾃﾃﾁｬ

この音とまれ！

2巻

アミュー

© アミュー 2013, 2014

初版発行　　2013年
デジタル版発行　2014年

発行所　集英社
http://www.shueisha.co.jp

この作品は、デジタル配信用に再編集を行ったものです。

本作品の内容あるいはデータを、全部・一部にかかわらず、無断で複製、改竄、公衆送信（インターネット上への掲載を含む）することは、法律で禁じられています。また、個人的な使用を目的とする複製であっても、コピーガードなどの著作権保護技術を解除して行うことはできません。

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

<CREDITS>

Raws: ECYMD

Translator: Siuliz

Proofreader: Sooteh

Cleaners: Cat & Sokoro

Typesetters: Ai & T.U.G

QCers: Joe & Hemony

friesquid.tk

shoujosense.com

WHEN THIS MANGA SERIES BECOMES AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCATION IN THE LANGUAGE YOU CAN READ, BUY IT TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

<CREDITS>

Raws: ECYMD

Translator: Siuliz

Proofreader: Sooteh

Cleaner: Jae

Typesetter: Ai

QCers: Jae & Hemony

friesquid.tk

shoujosense.com

WHEN THIS MANGA SERIES BECOMES AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCATION IN THE LANGUAGE YOU CAN READ, BUY IT TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

<CREDITS>

Raws: ECYMD

Translator: Siuliz

Proofreader: Sooteh

Cleaner: Cat

Typesetter: Jae & Ai

QCers: Jae & Hemony

friedsquid.weebly.com

shoujosense.com

WHEN THIS MANGA SERIES BECOMES AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCATION IN THE LANGUAGE YOU CAN READ, BUY IT TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!

Kono Oto Tomare!
Chapter 7

friedsquid.weebly.com
shoujosense.wordpress.com

Brought to you through the joint effort of
Fried Squid Scans
Shoujo Sense

Credits
Translator: Siuliz
Proofreader: TotalDemise
Cleaner: Waves
Redrawer: Cat
Typesetter: Hemony
Quality Checker: Jae